■ Metro / A23

Dengue outbreak in QC barangay leaves 8 dead in 6 weeks

■ News / A2

SC ousts Antonio Go board from Equitable-PCIB

■ World / A10

Nike unfazed by $3.8-billion Adidas, Reebok deal

■ Across / A17

Ocean Adventure stays open despite DENR closure order

■ Entertainment / A2-4

Great wait over for "The Great Raid" featuring "impressive" Cesar Montano

Pinedas 'very generous,' says Pampanga bishop

By Christian V. Esguerra

THEIRS may be perceived as a marriage of illegal gambling and politics, but to the Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga, Rodolfo and Lilia Pineda are "good parishioners" who are ever ubiquitous in Masses and other church activities and "very generous" in do-

PINEDAS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, August 5, 2005 ★★ 62 pages / 7 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 238 P18

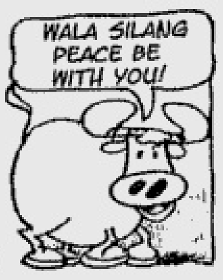
website: www.inq7.net

GMA, foes snub each other at 'Celebration of Truth'

By Christine O. Avendaño

FOR ABOUT an hour, she was in a room with her adversaries—so near and yet so far—at the "Celebration of Truth" launch-

GMA/ A4


WALA SILANG PEACE BE WITH YOU!

'Jueteng' witness says sorry to GMA

Between sobs, insists he is not recanting

By Norman Bordadora

OCCASIONALLY shouting into a microphone, a "jueteng" bagman-turned-whistle-blower yesterday tearfully accused the opposition of forcing him to link members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's family to the multibillion-peso illegal numbers racket.

But Richard Garcia stressed at a televised news conference that he was not retracting his previous deposition at the Senate that members of the First Family had received jueteng payoffs. "Everything I told the Senate is true," he said, speaking in Filipino.

In a rambling account, Garcia said he was at the end of his rope and was exhausted by the rigors of the Senate hearings, the death threats he had supposedly received, and the separation from his family.

He said he decided to quit being a prized witness of the opposition after San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora met with him and fellow jueteng whistle-blowers Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor and Sandra Cam last week.

"They wanted us to link the First Family to jueteng before the impeachment trial, but I don't know anything about that," Garcia said, naming opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson as one of those supposedly leaning on the witnesses.

"I told Boy and Sandra that we were being used too much," he said.

Garcia said Mayor and Cam were also quite bothered by the restricted life they had been living while supposedly being used for political interests.

"Madame Gloria, I'm sorry. I didn't know it would all come to this," he said, addressing Ms Arroyo between sobs.

"All we wanted was for jueteng to be eliminated. I don't think you will see me at the impeachment trial," he said,

'JUETENG'/ A6

EDWIN BACASMAS

NO EYE CONTACT between President Arroyo and her critics, also present at the launching of Radio Veritas' new format at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park.

WHISTLE-BLOWER Richard Garcia blows whistle on himself during a surprise press conference on Thursday. LYN RILLON

Bishop Cruz unfazed; Ping not surprised

By Christian V. Esguerra and Juliet Labog-Javellana

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz is undeterred by witness Richard Garcia's statement that he was forced by Sen. Panfilo Lacson to link the First Family to "jueteng."

"What's important is I know he told the truth at the Senate," Cruz said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, shortly after Garcia claimed at a press conference that he had been used by the opposition senator.

"I'll be the last person to question his judgment and credibility. I'm grateful to him for coming out and telling the truth. If he felt he was used and abused, I'm sorry for that," the archbishop added.

He expressed the same sentiments when he spoke by phone last night with the INQUIRER in Dagupan City.

Lacson himself denied that he had "set up"

BISHOP/ A6

Dy to testify on La Vista payoff, says Pimentel

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, TJ Burgonio and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SAYING he saw a handwritten statement of Faustino Dy Jr., Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. disclosed yesterday that the former Isabela governor was set to testify in the Senate about allegations that election officials were bribed with "jueteng" money right inside the house of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"What I know is that he has decided to testify. So we can expect him to testify next week," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

At press time, the INQUIRER was informed that Dy was set to be interviewed by ABS-CBN and GMA 7 at 6 a.m. today.

The Senate committee on public order has scheduled its next hearing on jueteng for Wednesday at 11 a.m., according to committee on public order secretary Xerxes Nitafan.

Pimentel said the committee, chaired by Sen. Manuel Villar, had sent an invi-

DY TO TESTIFY/ A21

Where's Garci? Opposition offers P1M

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

PRO-IMPEACHMENT lawmakers yesterday launched a "Where is Garci?" campaign, offering P500,000 to anyone who would provide information on the whereabouts of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, spokesperson of the impeachment team, said he and his colleagues launched the campaign because they "fear[ed] for the life" of Garcillano, who is allegedly in the custody of administration officials.

"We need him alive," Deputy Minority Leader Cayetano said in a press conference.

He called on "the public and those who are in search for the truth" to contribute to the fund, whether "piso-piso (P1)" or "in pledges."

He said the minority would try to raise a P1-million bounty, adding in jest that the figure was symbolic of the supposed one-million lead of President Macapagal-Arroyo over her closest rival in the 2004 election, the late movie idol Fernando Poe Jr.

According to Cayetano, the administration is now in a state of panic and may resort to certain means to silence the ex-official of the Commission on Elections.

"*Ang* concern *lang namin ay malilikot ang isip ng mga nagpa*-panic," the congressman said. "We don't want to have a scenario wherein there would be accusations and violence. So [producing] Mr. Garcillano—putting him in safekeeping and show-

WHERE'S/ A21

ERIK ARAZAS

HEAVYWEIGHTS. Star witness for the prosecution Michaelangelo Zuce turns over his 11-page affidavit to Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, head of the impeachment prosecution team on Thursday. Zuce's testimony at the Senate directly links alleged "jueteng" money to the election bid of President Arroyo courtesy of jueteng lord suspect Bong Pineda and wife Lilia.

Zuce is opposition 'star witness'

By Blanche S. Rivera, Philip C. Tubeza and Jerome Aning

MICHAELANGELO Zuce has become the "star witness" of the prosecution team in the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The prosecution team yesterday said it would tap Zuce, a former Malacañang employee, to testify in the Senate trial of Ms Arroyo should the impeachment complaint against her get the required signatures of one-third of the 236-member House of Representatives.

An impeachment complaint is sent to the Senate for trial once it is signed by 79 House members.

ZUCE/ A21

First, JDV says impeach bid dead, now it's alive and well

By Michael Lim Ubac

A DAY after announcing the imminent death of the opposition's bid to remove President Macapagal-Arroyo from office, Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said the House of Representatives would pursue the impeachment process to its logical end.

"We will follow the process, the rules ...but the minority must have 79 votes," De Venecia said. "You have to use your conscience but you also have to follow the legal process. If there is no evidence, why should she be impeached? There must be overwhelming evidence."

De Venecia earlier said that he and Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, head of Ms Arroyo's party, Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, had secured the pledge of 189 House members to stop the impeachment case from reaching Senate for trial. The Speaker made the claim in a two-hour forum of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines and later in a television interview on Wednesday.

The impeachment complaint must have the signatures of 79 lawmakers—one-third of the 236-member House—before this is automatically transmitted to the Senate for trial. The complaint accuses Ms Arroyo, among others, of rigging the 2004 presidential election. The President

FIRST/ A4

Second FRONT PAGE
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have rains, occasional gusty winds and moderate to rough seas. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will be cloudy, with occasional rains becoming frequent over the Western sections. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/08/05/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

SC ousts Go board from Equitable

By **Doris C. Dumlao**
and **Armand N. Nocum**

THE SUPREME Court yesterday issued a temporary restraining order barring the group of Antonio Go from assuming the board of Equitable PCI Bank, and effectively allowed the block of the state-owned pension funds to take over control of the bank.

"The order effectively recognized the [EPCIBank] board elected at the Mandarin Hotel," said Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, the new bank chair backed by representatives of the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System.

Romualdez was referring to the block that walked out of the tumultuous July 19 EPCIBank stockholders' meeting. The members of the block that same day held their own election at the Mandarin Hotel.

As a result of the high court's order, the other group headed by Antonio Go has been barred from "acting, claiming and/or representing [themselves] as members of the Board of Directors of petitioner Equitable PCI Bank Inc."

Unless the SC issues another ruling, the 15-member board elected by the SSS-GSIS group will be at the helm of EPCIBank.

The high court en banc also stopped Judge Sixto Marella of the Makati Regional Trial Court from proceeding with the civil case filed by Nilo Divina on behalf of the Go group.

The Makati judge earlier allowed the Go group to vote the disputed shares held by EPCIBank subsidiary EBC Investments Inc.

Divina could not be reached for comment.

After the high court issued the order, Romualdez immediately met with EPCIBank president Rene Buenaventura and promised the bank executive a "very smooth transition" of authority.

Asked about his first order of priority, Romualdez said: "It would be to reassure clients that it shall be business as usual at EPCIBank."

"The board will reorganize the subsidiaries, affiliates and committees... and maintain the bank's professional management," he said.

The pension funds, in alliance with the Romualdez family's Trans Middle-East Philippine Equities Inc. (TMEQ), claimed that they held the majority stake in EPCIBank and questioned the treasury shares the Go group had used to control the bank.

The SSS-GSIS group claims to hold a 54.6-percent stake in EPCIBank as against the 35 percent held by the Gos.

The SSS-GSIS group holds 354 million shares representing combined stock and proxies, of which 187.85 million is owned by the SSS, 88.85 million by the GSIS, 51.82 million by TMEQ and 25.56 million proxies from sympathetic minority shareholders that include the group of mall magnate Henry Sy.

The pension funds accused the Go group of using a disputed bloc of treasury shares to create an "artificial majority" and maintain their hold on the bank.

The disputed treasury shares represented a 10.84-percent stake—a crucial bloc that was enough to swing votes in favor of the Go family.

The 10.84-percent treasury shares belonged to EBC Investments Inc.

The SC ruling said EBCII and its representatives must refrain from voting the disputed shares or using them for the purpose of determining a quorum at any stockholders meeting.

Also, under banking laws and the ECPIBank bylaws, the treasury shares may not be used to determine a quorum or to be voted on, the Romualdez group said.

The order was signed by Acting Clerk of Court Ma. Luis D. Villarama on behalf of SC Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Another hearing is scheduled Aug. 9 at 11 a.m.

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All Magdalo leaders were arraigned, rules court-martial

By **Dona Pazzibugan**

A SPECIAL court-martial ruled yesterday that all 29 Oakwood mutiny leaders would continue to stand trial.

Reversing a previous ruling, the six-member tribunal declared that the "Magdalo" junior officers were considered arraigned as of July 13, two weeks before the case prescribed.

Defense lawyers had asked the court to dismiss the charges of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (Articles of War 96) since the officers were still not arraigned two years after the mutiny.

The court said it was enough that military prosecutors read the charges in court and asked for a special plea to consider the accused arraigned.

This was a reversal of its ruling last July 26 when the court said the arraignment process was "not complete."

During that hearing, the court ordered prosecutors to individually ask the accused how they plead to the charges.

Prosecutors however failed to arraign the officers before midnight of July 26, so defense lawyers asked the court to dismiss the case.

The court recognized that only Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and Capt. Milo Maestrecampo have been arraigned.

The court made a turnaround yesterday, which in effect would keep the Magdalo officers detained.

"This court rules that the arraignment of all the AFP officers in this case took place manifestly prior to the two-year prescriptive period," the court's law member, Lt. Col. Edmund Janda declared.

"This court's ruling that the offense... prescribed at July 26 midnight is rendered moot and academic," he added.

Defense lawyer Theodore Te said the Magdalo officers were not surprised at the decision.

"It is clear they are doing everything so as not to let them go," he said in an interview.

He said the officers were "realistic" enough to know they would not be allowed to post bail before a Makati court.

"But there was an expectation that it would be fair," Te said.

He said they would appeal the ruling at the next hearing on Aug. 24.

While the decision was being read, a few of the accused reacted with exclamations.

This did not escape the court's notice and the court president, Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon Jr. later reprimanded them.

Curiously, the prosecution panel's main argument at the last hearing on Aug. 1 was that the case had not prescribed under military rules.

Col. Pedro Herrera-Davila lengthily argued that the prescription clock stopped when the charges were filed last Nov. 10, 2004.

Afterwards, lead prosecutor Col. Julius Magno moved for a "correction of records" to indicate that all 29 officers were already arraigned.

During the July 26 marathon hearing, Magno had told the court that six out of the 29 officers have not been arraigned.

The court initially upheld his position.

After defense lawyer Ed Abaya pointed out that only Trillanes had been asked for his plea, the court reversed itself and ordered the prosecutors to arraign all the accused, except Trillanes.

"(The arraignment) was not completed. So we will ask the accused individually (for their pleas) as a matter of procedure," Janda had said.

But the arraignment was derailed by a challenge for cause posed by defense lawyers against court members

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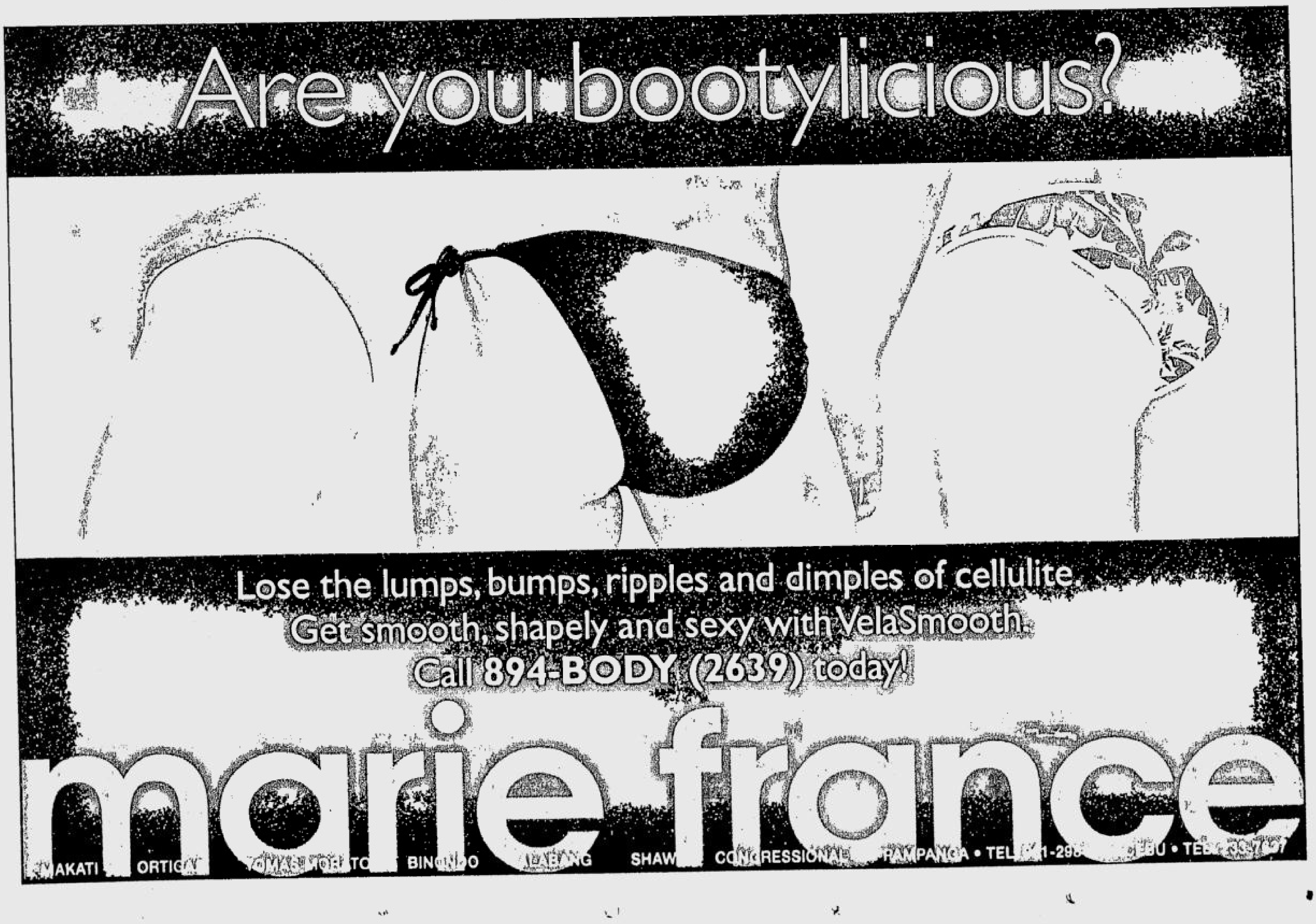
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First, JDV says impeach bid dead …

From page A1

has denied the charge.

De Venecia made the clarification after opposition lawmakers urged him to disclose how he had secured the firm commitment of 189 lawmakers to junk the impeachment complaint. De Venecia's arithmetic, if correct, would leave the opposition with only 47 lawmakers supporting its impeachment bid.

"Mr. Speaker, you said it will be a conscience vote. You said you would not approach congressmen and allow them to vote on their own. But how can you get firm commitments if you didn't approach them?" said Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, the spokesperson of the impeachment team.

"You should show and explain how you got these firm commitments and how is this consistent to what your saying that there would be a conscience vote," Cayetano added.

He said De Venecia's statements only confirmed the opposition's allegations that the Arroyo administration had been offering projects and other concessions to lawmakers in exchange for their pledge to reject the complaint.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, for his part, also told Palace reporters that about 170 members of the House had signed a document purportedly indicating that they were against Ms Arroyo's impeachment. Ermita's arithmetic, if correct, would only leave 66 lawmakers voting for impeachment.

"VERY MUCH ALIVE," the impeachment, that is, according to Speaker de Venecia backtracking from his announcement on Wednesday at the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines that 189 congressmen were set to junk the impeachment complaint. AP

Not saying who's who

Even so, San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said Thursday more than 50 lawmakers had signed the impeachment complaint and that he was confident the opposition would get the 79 signatures needed to send the case to trial.

"We are now above 50, but I'm not saying how many exactly," Zamora said. Among the new signatories, only South Cotabato Rep. Arthur Pingoy Jr. wanted to be named, he added.

But De Venecia pointed out that the complaint only had the signatures of 41 lawmakers when it was filed on July 25. "On that basis, it's virtually dead," he said.

'Very fair'

Still, De Venecia said Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, chair of the House justice committee, would start next week hearings on the impeachment complaint to ascertain its sufficiency in form and substance.

"(The opposition) should present evidence, then the members will be evaluated," he said.

De Venecia reminded the opposition that he had been "very fair" in dealing with the impeachment case.

"The Constitution allows me 10 session days to endorse each of the complaints. That translates to about 30 calendar days. But what did I do? On the first hour of the first day [of the second regular session on July 25], so that no one will say that I was stonewalling, I turned the complaints over to the House committee on justice," he said.

Surigao Del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay urged De Venecia to keep his arithmetic to himself.

"I have not seen a single signature [on the document mentioned by Ermita]. I have not signed anything. Even the majority should refrain from talking about numbers and respect the conscience of every congressman who have their own own minds," Pichay said.

Pichay also scored the Palace for meddling in the affairs of Congress.

"I don't think Malacañang should even be meddling because we will not allow that. *Nakuryente lang sila* (They were victims of bum a steer)," Pichay said, stressing that it did not mean that the 170 who "probably did not sign the complaint" should be counted as anti-impeachment.

Mindless cattle

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, who bolted the House majority when he joined the clamor for Ms Arroyo to step aside last month, said the pronouncements by De Venecia and Ermita showed that the majority was out to "subvert the impeachment process by tyranny of numbers irrespective of the evidence against the President."

"This is an insult to the members of the House. The Speaker and Malacañang are making it appear that House members are like mindless cattle that can be herded anywhere the President wanted them to go," said Golez.

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III said many congressmen remained undecided because they had yet to see the evidence against the President. He said that he was confident that once the evidence was presented, the required 79 votes would be reached.

"It's just a matter of talking one-on-one to other members of Congress. Despite all the promises the Speaker can give to congressmen, when we talk about their conscience, I think we can get that number," he said.

He added that the nine Liberal Party lawmakers who had signed the complaint might reach "20 and even 25."

Hands-off

Despite Ermita's statements, Malacañang yesterday insisted that Ms Arroyo was taking a hands-off policy in the impeachment process by allowing lawmakers to decide on their own on whether to vote for or against the complaint.

"The President is ready to submit herself to the constitutional process. Whatever the result of their voting, and if this is based on their mutually agreed process, this will be respected by the executive branch," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a press briefing.

Bunye also said the President had not made any extra effort to influence her allies in Congress.

"[All the perks and projects] are things that they enjoy with or without this controversy," Bunye said. "We hope the allies of the President will stay the course with her and be partners in achieving the various programs of her administration."

Heated debate

Former Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, who has been assigned by the Palace as "resource person on impeachment," predicted a heated debate in the House justice committee during deliberations on which of the three impeachment complaints should be tackled. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño*

GMA, foes snub each other at 'Celebration of Truth'

From page A1

ing new programs of the Church-backed Radio Veritas.

On one side of the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center in Makati were President Macapagal-Arroyo, Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, businessmen and allies in Congress.

On the other flank were Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, both at the forefront of a campaign calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation over allegations she cheated in the last election.

The two groups snubbed each other.

Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said Mass and unveiled the new Veritas logo after which, Ms Arroyo left, passing by Pimentel and Ocampo without even glancing at them.

THE PRAYER IN HER MIND. President Arroyo is a figure of reflection during the Mass that mark the launching of a new Radio Veritas on Thursday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Asked if he had a chance to meet the President, Pimentel said simply that she was at the other side of the room.

"She did not look our way," said Ocampo. Saying he is a "sport," he said he would have gone to her and greeted her otherwise.

Ocampo's prayer

Asked what his prayer was for the President, Ocampo said he hoped that Ms Arroyo would take seriously the calls for peace and for truth.

He noted that the message of Veritas was to "give out the truth." He said that if Ms Arroyo told the truth, "people may absolve her."

"This whole activity focused on being truthful, and hopefully the President would be truthful, would be true to the nation," Ocampo said.

President Arroyo is facing the worst political crisis of her 4-year-old administration. It was triggered by accusations she stole the 2004 election and that she and her close relatives accepted illegal gambling payoffs. She has adamantly denied any wrongdoing.

Radio Veritas served as the main opposition outlet in the campaign to oust the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1980s.

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Corrections

IN THE FIRST edition of yesterday's issue, the headline of a news item—"Pulse Asia survey: GMA approval rating drops to 19%"—was erroneously placed in one of the windows of the front page and the reader was directed to turn to News/Page A3. The news item appeared only in the second and third editions.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the caption of a front-page photo of Jose Ma. "Joey" Rufino, a former presidential political liaison officer, misstated that he was "no longer in the ICU." Relatives have called the INQUIRER to say that Rufino was never in the intensive care unit of Medical City.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the front-page banner story—"Zuce: GMA saw payoffs"—misspelled the name of one of the persons whom whistle-blower Michaelangelo "Louie" Zuce said he had worked with during so-called "special operations" in Mindanao. The correct spelling of Zuce's alleged associate is Butch Paquinggan—not Pakinggan.

* * *

IN THE AUG. 2 issue, a story on Page A19 of the Sports section—"PBA meeting up; Harbour keen on Shell"—misstated the estimated price of the Shell franchise. The estimated price is P50 million—not P50,000,000 million.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent, pending the appointment of a new readers' advocate, to Isagani Yambot, publisher, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: iyambot@inquirer.com.ph.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 5, 2005
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dt 4:32-40
Gospel: Matthew 16:24-28

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you want to follow me, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me. For whoever chooses to save his life will lose it, but the one who loses his life for my sake will find it. What will one gain by winning the whole world if he destroys himself? There is nothing you can give to recover your own self.

"Know that the Son of Man will come in the Glory of his Father with the holy angels, and he will reward each one according to his deeds. Truly, I tell you, there are some here who will not die before they see the Son of Man coming as king."

Commentary

This portion of the scripture follows Peter's betrayal and rejection of Jesus' call to the cross and what will happen to him in Jerusalem. Jesus turns his back on Peter and the disciples and call the crowd—everyone who would follow him to 'deny yourself' so that we will not deny him publicly, and then "take up the cross and follow him." It's a call to wholehearted acceptance of suffering and even death if necessary in defense of the good news to the poor and the person of the crucified Lord. It is about life and death, here and forever. Have we ever truly decided, committed and singleheartedly turned into the way of the Cross, the way of Jesus the Lord to the Father, relying on the Spirit? Today would be a good day.

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Gov't can't cancel rebs' immunity, says NDF

NATIONAL Democratic Front chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni assailed Malacañang for announcing it has indefinitely suspended a joint agreement with the NDF that grants immunity to communist peace negotiators.

Jalandoni said the government cannot unilaterally suspend the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantee (Jasig).

"These guarantees are not a unilateral concession or favor extended by the GRP to the NDF Panel," Jalandoni said in a statement.

He said the immunity guarantees provided under the Jasig to both panels "cannot be unilaterally denounced or repudiated by either side in the peace negotiations."

"It is therefore clear that (Executive Secretary Eduardo) Ermita's announcement of a unilateral and indefinite suspension of the Jasig is invalid," Jalandoni said.

He added the written notice sent by fax yesterday by government chief negotiator Nieves Confesor is also invalid.

Jalandoni denied Ermita's assertion that they were suspending the Jasig since the NDF had withdrawn from the peace talks.

Jalandoni denied they "withdrew from or abandoned the peace negotiations." He said they merely postponed the peace talks "to give time to the Arroyo regime to comply with the peace agreements in connection with certain prejudicial questions."

The NDF suspended peace talks last August in protest of the inclusion of NDF chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison and the New People's Army in the terrorist lists of the US and the European Union.

Jalandoni said "the Jasig does not provide for a suspension, much less a unilateral and indefinite suspension."

He said the Jasig can be terminated by a formal written notice of one party to the other, containing the explicit approval of that party's principal.

The termination takes effect 30 days after receipt of the written notice.

"However, even after such termination, the immunity guarantees remain in full force and effect," Jalandoni insisted.

He assailed Ermita and Confesor for violating agreements entered into during the negotiations.

"They seek to harm all persons duly authorized by the NDF Panel to participate in the peace negotiations," he said, adding that not all those covered by Jasig are members of the revolutionary forces.

He said some are consultants or staff and technical personnel.

"Ermita is exposing his mean and brutal character. He was associated with the use of motorcycle-riding killers during the Aquino regime when the military tried to destroy Partido ng Bayan," Jalandoni said.

He accused Ermita of "trying to destroy all confidence in the peace negotiations by treacherously seeking to arrest and hunt down all those duly authorized by the NDF Panel to participate in the peace negotiations."

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces and the PNP said they are ready to arrest those whose immunity under the Jasig would be revoked.

"The free travel (pass) of the 97 (NDF negotiators) will be gone. The cases against them that were suspended because of their participation in the peace process will now be pushed through," AFP spokesman Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said.

"Violators of law by any CPP-NPA-NDF shall be arrested anywhere in urban or rural areas. We will enforce the law without fear or favor," said PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Saguisag courts contempt anew, twits SC this time

By Nelson Flores and Armand Nocum

UNDETERRED by the Sandiganbayan's rebuke that he should be more circumspect in airing his views, lawyer Rene Saguisag yesterday charged that the Supreme Court had already convicted former President Joseph Estrada of plunder when it ousted him from office by swearing-in Ms Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo into the presidency in 2001.

Claiming that Estrada was illegally removed from office under the pretext that he was a plunderer, Saguisag said that his client's ouster was given legitimacy when Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide administered the oath of office to Ms Arroyo.

"The administration of the oath of office was witnessed by 11 other justices who even went to Edsa," Saguisag said. The so-called People Power Revolt 2 culminated in Estrada's abandonment of Malacañang in a boat in January 2001 and Ms Arroyo's taking the oath in Edsa after massive rallies.

"By going there they (the Supreme Court justices) accepted the view that Estrada was a plunderer who ought to be removed from the presidency," Estrada added.

He said that Davide himself acknowledged in a speech during the first anniversary of Bantay Katarungan that Estrada was removed from power because of "misgovernance of alarming proportions."

"How can a lower court see him (Estrada) otherwise?" Saguisag asked. No lower court, the Sandiganbayan included, would go against the collective decision of the high tribunal, he stressed.

On Wednesday the Sandiganbayan Special Division hearing Estrada's plunder case warned Saguisag against issuing statements which undermined the credibility of the anti-graft court after the lawyer said the sala was "programmed to convict" the former president.

Estrada is under house arrest in his sprawling rest house in Tanay, Rizal facing plunder charges, an offense punishable with death via lethal injection.

Saguisag also said that the high tribunal created the anti-graft court's Special Division despite the Estrada lawyers' determined opposition and the absence of any motion seeking its establishment.

The Supreme Court yesterday justified the creation of the special division, saying that it was intended to speed up the plunder and perjury trial at the anti-graft court.

In a statement, SC Assistant Court Administrator and Information Chief Ismael G. Khan Jr. said that "given the nature of the plunder case ... the prominence of the principal accused and the importance of the immediate resolution of the cases ... this court, in the interest of justice and speedy disposition of cases ... deemed it best to create a special division of the Sandiganbayan."

He said that the creation of the special division also intended to assure that the "substantive right of the accused" was observed.

Khan also debunked Saguisag's claim that the high court said the creation of the special division was sought by defense lawyers, saying the court mentioned no such thing in its resolution creating the special panel.

He said the SC made it clear that the creation of the special panel was made upon the request of the Sandiganbayan. "The court never misrepresented or distorted the facts leading up to the creation of the special division," Khan said.

The Special Tribunal is composed of Justices Teresita de Castro as presiding chair, Francisco Villaruz and Diosdado Peralta as regular division members, and Rodolfo Ponferrada, Ma. Cristina Estrada, Godofredo Legaspi as alternate members.

For his part, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Estrada's lawyers were only "resurrecting" matters "long settled and rendered immaterial by the developments."

He added that the "presentation of matters obviously irrelevant to the charge of plunder is an undeniable effort to delay the proceedings."

Text raffle 'winner' hoaxed

By Doris C. Dumlao

WHEN Iloilo-based farmer Lydia dela Torre got a text message saying she won P950,000 from some raffle, she did not think twice about paying the "fees" and traveling to Manila to collect her prize.

She pawned her family's farm, partly to pay for some medical expenses as well as to comply with the demands of the "raffle" operator and to rush to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in Manila to collect the alleged winnings.

Specifically, the 51-year old widow and mother of four was asked by the raffle proponent to buy pre-paid cards to load 14 cellphone numbers with P300 each or else forefeit her prize.

She was then asked to go to a non-existent office at the BSP called "GMA Charity Division Office" to collect her prize. The BSP guards, who informed her about the hoax, directed Dela Torre to the government's Anti-Money Laundering Council.

De la Torre was among those recently victimized by text scams perpetrated by syndicates which are now even targeting overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

AMLC executive director Vicente Aquino estimated that over the last two years, text scam perpetrators have defrauded hapless cellphone users of about P10 million, as winners were usually asked to pay certain fees and taxes.

The AMLC yesterday held a press conference urging the public to beware of such text scams.

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‘Jueteng’ witness says sorry to GMA

From page A1

denying suggestions that he was paid off by Arroyo supporters to hold the news conference.

He also sought forgiveness from the Filipino people, saying he knew absolutely nothing about politics.

All true

Garcia, however, said he was not recanting anything from his testimony at the hearings: “All I said in the Senate were what I believed in my heart to be true.”

He had testified at the Senate public hearings that he took part in bribing government officials as well as policemen to turn a blind eye on jueteng operations in Luzon.

Asked later about his testimony on the alleged involvement of the President’s elder son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, as the “Lion King” of jueteng operations and one of the recipients of payola, he said: “I was not the one who said that. I only said that that what was told to me by my superior at the time.”

He named Supt. Pierre Bucsit as his “superior” or handler in jueteng operations then.

According to Garcia, Bucsit was a regional intelligence chief of the Philippine National Police in Luzon when they set up payola networks for PNP officials and elected executives.

Garcia also said Lacson was insistent that he link the President’s husband, Jose Miguel “Mike” Arroyo, and son to jueteng when he and Mayor first spoke out in public.

A joke

“It all started as a joke. Our original plan then was just to come out in the media,” Garcia said of his and Mayor’s supposed scheme to disclose what they knew about jueteng operations.

Asked if members of the opposition had threatened him in any way to convince him to come out as a witness against the First Family, he said: “In fairness to them, they didn’t.”

As to whether he was bribed, he said: “I wouldn’t be here if I were.”

Nevertheless, he said, he was emotionally and physically spent by what became of his life after he and Mayor decided to expose jueteng operations.

ARCHBISHOP CRUZ is a solicitous companion during the testimony of bagman Richard Garcia at the second Senate hearing inquiring into the illegal numbers game. PDI PHOTO

He said he could not bear it any longer: *“Hindi ko na kaya. Pagod na ako. Apektado na ang aking pamilya. Gulong-gulo na ang isip ko.”*

Setup

Garcia disclosed his feelings when he met with Mayor at the Westin Philippine Plaza one afternoon in May: “I felt I was set up when I met Boy Mayor. I thought he was the only one there.” He said he was surprised to see certain persons who identified themselves as members of Lacson’s staff, and Abe Riva, another jueteng witness.

It was Riva who linked former presidential adviser Moises Espinosa to jueteng operations. He said Espinosa was Mike Arroyo’s collector of protection money from jueteng operations in the Bicol region.

“Later, Senator Ping arrived,” Garcia said. “He asked us what our respective roles were in jueteng operations. In other words, he was gauging our caliber [as witnesses].”

Not long afterwards, Garcia said, Lacson’s people started typing what was being said, which later turned out to be their sworn affidavits.

“There were even two lawyers present,” Garcia said, adding that he saw the whole thing as a setup so he and other witnesses would not back out from testifying at the Senate inquiry into jueteng.

3 other senators

Garcia said three other senators dropped in at the Westin Plaza hotel room.

He named them as Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Jinggoy Estrada and Jamby Madrigal, all of the opposition.

He said that in the evening, he, Mayor and Riva were brought to the Fairview residence of Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias where they met Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

Cruz, an antijueteng crusader, has since provided the witnesses refuge.

Longtime friend

Garcia was presented to the media by Ricardo “Ding” Santos, a former Pasay City police officer and ex-chief security aide of the late Pasay Mayor Pablo Cuneta.

Santos said Garcia went to his office in Pasay on Monday saying that he needed a place to stay.

“When I saw that he had a bulletproof vest on and that he had a .45 cal. pistol tucked in his waist, I was convinced that he had a problem,” Santos said, adding:

“We’ve been friends a long time. He always supported me whenever I ran [for office].”

Santos ran four times for mayor of Pasay but lost each time.

One of the issues thrown at him during his election campaigns was his association with gambling lords in southern Metro Manila, including such alleged operators as Gener Cruz and Toto Lacson.

Bishop Cruz unfazed; Ping not surprised

From page A1

Garcia, but said he was not surprised at the turn of events.

“These things are bound to happen because the administration has all the resources to influence the witnesses. I was not surprised because we already have a lesson with Udong Mahusay,” a laughing Lacson told the INQUIRER.

He was referring to his star witness against President Macapagal-Arroyo’s husband, Jose Miguel “Mike” Arroyo, regarding the latter’s secret “Jose Pidal” accounts.

Mahusay retracted his accusations against Mike Arroyo after he was “rescued” by the President’s closest aide, then Housing Secretary Michael Defensor.

“That’s part of politics,” Lacson said.

‘Nothing wrong’

Cruz, head of the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, said Garcia’s startling account would not affect his crusade to stamp out the P130-billion jueteng industry and hold those behind it accountable.

He admitted that it was Lacson’s camp who had brought Garcia to him.

“I don’t see anything wrong with that,” Cruz said. “The truth does not respect political parties. I took him in because I knew he was telling the truth.”

Cruz said he was told about Garcia’s decision to hold a press conference on Wednesday night, during a lengthy meeting with other witnesses Sandra Cam and Wilfredo “Boy” Mayor at his office at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines headquarters in Manila.

“I was informed that he was leaving us,” Cruz recalled. “I was told that he was already somehow frustrated because he could not tell everything he wanted in the Senate. But that’s the way it is. We cannot expect the hearings to be continuous. They have to end somewhere.”

Just last week, Garcia was a picture of a determined witness when he appeared in a press conference with Cam, Mayor and Cruz in Intramuros.

The three witnesses complained that they still had so many things to say about jueteng but could not do so because of the limitations in the Senate investigation.

Exerting pressure

Lacson said that because he was expecting the administration to exert pressure on the witnesses, he had asked Michaelangelo Zuce whether the latter would eventually recant.

He pointed out that Zuce—who had provided the first eyewitness account on the alleged distribution of bribe money to election officials in the house of Ms Arroyo in La Vista, Quezon City—was a colleague of Udong Mahusay’s brother, Ferdinand Mahusay, a regional political officer of the President’s.

But Lacson denied having coaxed or forced Garcia to implicate members of the First Family.

“If that is true, he could have implicated the President’s family. But I don’t recall him mentioning them in the Senate hearings,” Lacson said.

He said Garcia had many opportunities in the Senate hearings to talk about any pressure, but did not until yesterday at the press conference.

Garcia has appeared in all but one of the seven Senate hearings held on jueteng so far.

In his first appearance, he dazzled the senators and the audience with a long list of people supposedly involved in jueteng and his brushes with armed goons.

“I did not invite him, I did not ask him to testify. He voluntarily went with Boy Mayor. He knows what he was getting into, so I leave it up to him [to decide] what he wants to do,” Lacson said.

THE DEBUT appearance of witnesses Boy Mayor and Richard Garcia on May 18, 2005 had their backs to the camera and they went by the name of whistle-blower 1 and 2. PDI PHOTO

No personal knowledge

Lacson admitted that Mayor, a confessed jueteng lord who implicated Ms Arroyo’s elder son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel “Mikey” Arroyo in the jueteng payoffs, had approached him weeks before Mayor and other witnesses testified at the jueteng hearing on May 30.

He said Mayor had sought him through one of his leaders in Bicol.

He said he did not know Mayor or that Mayor would be coming with two others—Garcia and Abe Riva. He said he did not know them personally and met them only when they arrived from Bicol.

Lacson said he only provided initial security for Mayor after the latter complained of harassment while they were still in Bicol.

He said he had Mayor escorted to Manila and immediately turned over the latter and the two others to Archbishop Cruz through a common friend.

“I did not want to handle them because I do not want this colored by politics,” Lacson said.

Ronnie Puno

Lacson said he had information that a Malacañang operative was behind Garcia’s latest statements: “Who else but [Rizal Rep. Ronaldo] Ronnie Puno?”

Asked if he thought money was involved, Lacson said: “I do not want to ascribe motives, but anything is possible.”

The senator said Garcia could have felt bad about the inability of the Senate to give material support.

“[The Senate] did not promise him any material support, only security for him and the other witnesses,” Lacson said, adding:

“But he knew what he went into before, I hope he knows what he’s getting into now. If he is with the administration, good luck.”

Meeting at Westin

Garcia, Mayor and Riva spoke with two INQUIRER reporters on May 18 in a room at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

That time, the three did not want their identities disclosed. But they willingly narrated their individual stories to the INQUIRER.

There were two other reporters—Lei Alviz of GMA 7 and Angie Rosales of Tribune newspaper—who interviewed the witnesses after the two INQUIRER reporters were done.

Lacson was present in the room but said he was not the handler of the witnesses.

He said Mayor had sought a meeting with him through one of his leaders in Bicol and that it was the first time he saw him and the two others in person.

In the interview with the INQUIRER, Garcia said he used to collect payola from jueteng operators in Central Luzon for distribution to national and regional officials.

He claimed that Mikey Arroyo asked for P500,000 from regional jueteng operators in 2002 through a certain Tonton, whom he mistakenly identified as a son of Bataan Gov. Pablo Roman.

When he first testified in the Senate on June 6, Garcia narrated a long trail of jueteng operations from Bicol to Central Luzon.

Quoting former police officials whom he supposedly worked for as jueteng bagman, Garcia implicated Mike and Mikey Arroyo and Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio “Iggy” Arroyo.

The witnesses told the INQUIRER that they were going to testify at the Senate hearing. When the INQUIRER asked for their affidavits, they said they were preparing these at the moment.

There were lawyers in the room.

‘Never saw him’

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. dismissed Garcia’s statements, saying: “May the Lord bless his soul.”

Opposition Sen. Jinggoy Estrada also denied having a hand in forcing Garcia to testify against the First Family.

“I have never seen that person except in the Senate hearings. I never talked to him,” Estrada said.

Opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal said Garcia’s statements were part of “a black operation effort of a dying administration.”

“This is definitely an attempt to preempt other witnesses who are coming out. The administration is playing dirty politics in trying to drag senators who only want the truth to come out,” Madrigal said.

With reports from TJ Burgonio in Manila and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Pinedas ‘very generous’ parishioners, says Pampanga bishop

From page A1

nating cash for religious programs.

Archbishop Paciano Aniceto yesterday said the Pinedas were keeping a “low profile” following reports implicating them in “jueteng” payoffs to election officials to ensure the victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 polls.

“I think they have lain low because they are being linked to some allegations,” Aniceto told reporters after officiating Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City. “I don’t see them or hear from them often these days anymore.”

The Mass was part of a program launching the reformatted Radio Veritas, a Church-owned facility. Among those who attended were Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, the President and some of her fiercest critics, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Sen. Alfredo Lim and party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Teodoro Casiño.

Before the latest allegations against them surfaced, Aniceto said the Pinedas, who hail from Ms Arroyo’s hometown of Lubao, usually offered cash in Masses and donated hefty amounts for the construction of churches, homes for the aged, and orphanages.

Their family also regularly donates to scholarship and outreach programs sponsored by the local clergy, he said.

Rodolfo “Bong” Pineda is widely suspected to be the biggest “jueteng” lord in the country. His wife, a provincial board member and former Lubao mayor, has been accused of giving jueteng money to poll officials at Ms Arroyo’s house in Quezon City.

Both have denied the charges.

‘Special’ relationship

“The parish priests know them,” Aniceto said. “They are part of the parish so you accept them as they are. They are part of the community.”

But a ranking Church official once said that the Pinedas kept a much more “special” relationship with a number of religious leaders in Pampanga, described by Senator Pimentel as the “Vatican of Jueteng” due to the unabated and widespread operations of the illegal numbers racket there.

In a recent interview with the INQUIRER, the official said the Pinedas were so generous to a number of priests that they usually sent roast pig (*lechon*), wine and other goodies during their birthdays.

The “beneficiaries” would return the favor by not missing special occasions, such as birthdays of any Pineda family member or their closest friends, the official said.

Rival jueteng lord

Not to be outdone, another known jueteng operator in the province was just as generous and accommodating to priests, according to the source. Priests allegedly get free meals in a restaurant owned by the operator and managed by his mother.

“They go there regularly and they don’t seem to find anything wrong with getting free meals out of jueteng money,” the official said.

Like his rival, the man and his family allegedly donate as much as P10,000 cash for every Mass they attend, the official added.

In his homily, Bishop Aniceto reminded the people that the scandal-ridden Arroyo administration was but a reflection of their character.

“The government is only as good as the people who put it there,” he said.

Quiet progressive

Aniceto, known as a quiet progressive among his peers, said every Filipino should get involved in finding a “real solution” to the crisis, one that is neither narrow-minded nor a product of vested political interests.

“Who will pull us out of all these? It’s God and all of us,” he said. “Let us recover the soul of the Philippines. Let us not allow ourselves to lose our heritage, our legacy, and our heroes.”

But the prelate did not tackle widespread apprehension in the heels of allegations that Ms Arroyo rigged the outcome of the 2004 presidential elections using jueteng money. The President has denied cheating in the polls and insisted that she won.

Speaking with reporters after the Mass, Aniceto admitted that the electoral process was “already flawed.”

In his homily, he assured the President that the Church would continue to keep its hands off the political turmoil. “The Church respects the autonomy of political processes,” he said, echoing the official statement of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

“Politics is the proper sphere of the laity, not the clergy, and we interfere only whenever political activities trespass against the moral and ethical principles,” Aniceto said.

Rosales’ message

Archbishop Rosales, who earlier expressed his dismay over Philippine politics, was not as accommodating of the President during the affair.

The 72-year-old prelate hardly exchanged pleasantries with Ms Arroyo. He walked with her to start off the unveiling of the new Veritas logo, but left soon after he delivered a message on truth.

“Truth is not manufactured in time; truth is rooted in eternity, in the very essence and goodness of God,” Rosales said. The President was sitting about five steps in front of him.

Peachy Yamsuan, communications director of the Archdiocese of Manila, said Rosales had to leave for a 2 p.m. talk on his Pondo ng Pinoy project in a school in Caloocan City.

Role models needed

Aniceto said the country was in need of “role models” amid the conflicts and confusion brought about by charges against Ms Arroyo.

Asked if Ms Arroyo could be considered one, he said: “I will not judge her. She has her light and shadow. Let us establish her innocence or guilt through the proper forum.”

For her part, the President should expedite the delivery of basic services to the poor people, he said. “The benefits of the projects should trickle down to them so they’ll feel that they are really included in the vision.”

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Foreign trade groups urge gov't to clarify holiday policy

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOREIGN business groups operating in the country have asked the government for a clearer and more flexible implementation of the so-called holiday economics, saying too many non-working days declared on short notice were disrupting their operations.

In a letter to Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila dated Aug. 1, the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines said the declaration of special holidays "seems unplanned and spur-of-the-moment evidenced by the very short lead time" in the announcements.

In a bid to spur domestic tourism, Malacañang started in 2001 to put holidays that fall on weekdays near the end of the week to give workers longer holidays.

The JFC said such practice increases their costs against projections because firms have to require employees to report for work during special holidays just to fulfill obligations to customers.

This is the case especially among manufacturing companies which prepare mid-range output and shipment plans at controlled costs that are based on commitments, the group said.

Added costs

Even then, companies whose employees opt not to work also incur added costs for overhead expenses like electricity and water.

JFC added that in-bound deliveries of our input materials as well as shipments requiring approvals from government agencies like the Philippine Economic Zone Authority could not be obtained because these agencies are on holiday.

"As most of us are multinational companies with counterparts in other global sites, travel plans of our counterparts and foreign business partners are either cancelled, postponed or altered," the group added.

"More often than not, this causes embarrassment to the company and the government."

JFC said that since 2001, the announcement of new holidays has not been consistent as not all holidays falling on a Sunday or Saturday have been subjected to the policy.

"During their planning cycles, companies are willing to adjust manufacturing operations and calendars, but are left guessing whether a proclamation will be issued or not since there has been no established pattern in this regard," JFC said.

Guessing game

"Some of us who attempt to adjust their work programs based on "most likely" proclamations end up with conflicting schedules when proclamations do not come as predicted," the group added.

Also, the group observed that employee productivity is not really at its peak during work on holidays, despite the grant of premium pay because of the prevailing holiday mood.

"In this regard, most companies are compelled to provide higher than the legally prescribed premium to motivate employees.

Employers are faced with potential labor relations issues when we require employees to work to meet customer commitments.

To address these problems, JFC made the suggestions that "we see as basic and workable:"

- That at the start of the year or at least six months prior, a proclamation on new holidays for the coming year or for the next six months under the holiday economics policy, be declared;
- That overtime pay should not be required if a holiday were declared with less than six months notice;.
- That company practices of replacing new special holidays with company holidays on other dates for example, to afford longer Christmas breaks, Holy Week breaks, or other schemes fitting unique operations, be studied as alternatives to compliance to the holiday economics policy;
- That holiday premium on such specific cases need not be mandatory.

For example, June 13, 2005 may be replaced by an employer with a company holiday on Dec. 24, 2005 – hence, longer Christmas break for employees. Work rendered on June 13, 2005 may no longer be paid the holiday premium of 30 percent of the regular pay.

The JFC groups the American, Australia-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese and Korean chambers of commerce and the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters.

The JFC represents about 1,700 multinational companies that have substantial investment in the Philippines.

GMA grants more subsidy to NorthRail squatters

By Cynthia D. Balana

EMBATTLED President Macapagal-Arroyo's public relations offensive has reached squatters affected by the P26.1-billion NorthRail project as she recently approved a P25,000-additional subsidy to each relocated family as part of their housing materials loan as recommended by Vice President Noli de Castro.

Before leaving for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to attend the burial of King Fahd, De Castro said he was able to secure the President's approval during the Cabinet meeting early this week.

The 32.2-kilometer railway transit project, which will link Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Northern Luzon, is the biggest project between the Philippines and China.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said the additional amount would be deducted from the total amount to be paid by each family, specifically from the housing materials loan.

This means that a family will still receive P50,000 for the purchase of housing materials, but will only pay half of this amount as a loan.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Insurgents kill 14 US Marines in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Fourteen Marines were killed in one of the deadliest attacks on US forces since the invasion of Iraq, and an American freelance reporter was gunned down in the relatively calm south.

The Marines, along with an interpreter, were killed Wednesday when their armored vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb during combat operations near Haditha, 260 km northwest of Baghdad, the US military said.

One of the bloodiest single days for US troops in the conflict brought the total of US soldiers killed to 21 in western Iraq since Monday, and the US death toll since the March 2003 invasion to 1,811.

Gunmen meanwhile murdered a US freelance reporter in southern Iraq, and insurgents claimed they had captured another US Marine.

"The violence in recent days in Iraq is a grim reminder of the enemies we face," US President George W. Bush said, speaking in Texas, where he is on vacation.

"These terrorists and insurgents will use brutal tactics because they're trying to shake the will of the United States of America... They will fail," he said.

Bush spoke amid recent news reports of US plans to reduce its troop presence in Iraq next year to 80,000 by mid next year and to 60,000 by the end of 2006.

"I hear all the time, 'Well, when are bringing the troops home?' And my answer to you: 'As soon as possible but not before the mission is complete,'" Bush said.

Ansar al-Sunna, an extremist group linked with the al-Qaida network, said in an Internet statement it had killed eight US Marines and captured a ninth in western Iraq. The US military denied capture of any of its Marines.

It said it killed some Marines Monday by "slitting their throats," while others were shot, and vowed to publish more details on the killings and pictures of the "American prisoner" later. The statement could not be verified.

In Washington Brig. Gen. Carter Ham of the US Joint Staff said rebels were using armor penetrating explosives in recent attacks.

"We are seeing different techniques that are being used in an effort to counter the efforts of coalition and Iraqi security forces to protect folks while they are moving—different types of penetrators, different techniques of triggering the events," Ham said.

"I mean, again, this is a very brutal, lethal and adaptive enemy," he added.

Meanwhile, US journalist Steven Vincent, 50, was shot dead after being snatched Tuesday evening from a street in central Basra along with his Iraqi translator who was shot twice but survived.

"There were four gunmen in a white pickup truck and they kidnapped the two," police Lt. Col. Karim al-Zaidi said.

Vincent is the first US journalist to be attacked and killed in Iraq. Others have died in vehicle accidents or from illness.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, a US-based media rights group, 52 journalists have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion began in March 2003. Another 21 media support staff such as drivers, translators, and security guards, have been killed.

Insurgent actions were responsible for the bulk of the deaths, CPJ said.

Southern Iraq, where the British military is based, has remained relatively calm since the US-led war, largely avoiding the daily diet of deadly violence in many other parts of the country.

"Vincent's body was recovered by local Basra authorities, and the US forces along with the British forces will determine who is responsible for the death," US embassy acting spokesperson Peter Mitchell said.

Vincent wrote for the Christian Science Monitor, The New York Times and the conservative National Review magazine. He had also written a book on Iraq titled "In The Red Zone."

In his final report for the New York Times dated July 31, Vincent wrote that 75 percent of police in Basra were supporters of radical Shiite leader Moqtada al-Sadr. "And unfortunately, the British seem unable or unwilling to do anything about it," he wrote.

Across Iraq, 12 other people were killed Wednesday. *AFP*

Deaths from pig-borne disease worry experts

MONTREAL, Canada—Experts on a strep germ that's sickening people and pigs in China are baffled by reports of 37 farmers suddenly falling ill, bleeding under the skin and dying—all previously unheard of with the disease.

While not uncommon in pigs, Streptococcus suis is seldom seen in people and never dozens of cases all at once—raising bigger questions about whether the germ has mixed with some other bacteria or virus.

"Something is different," Marcelo Gottschalk, one of the world's leading experts on the disease, said on Wednesday.

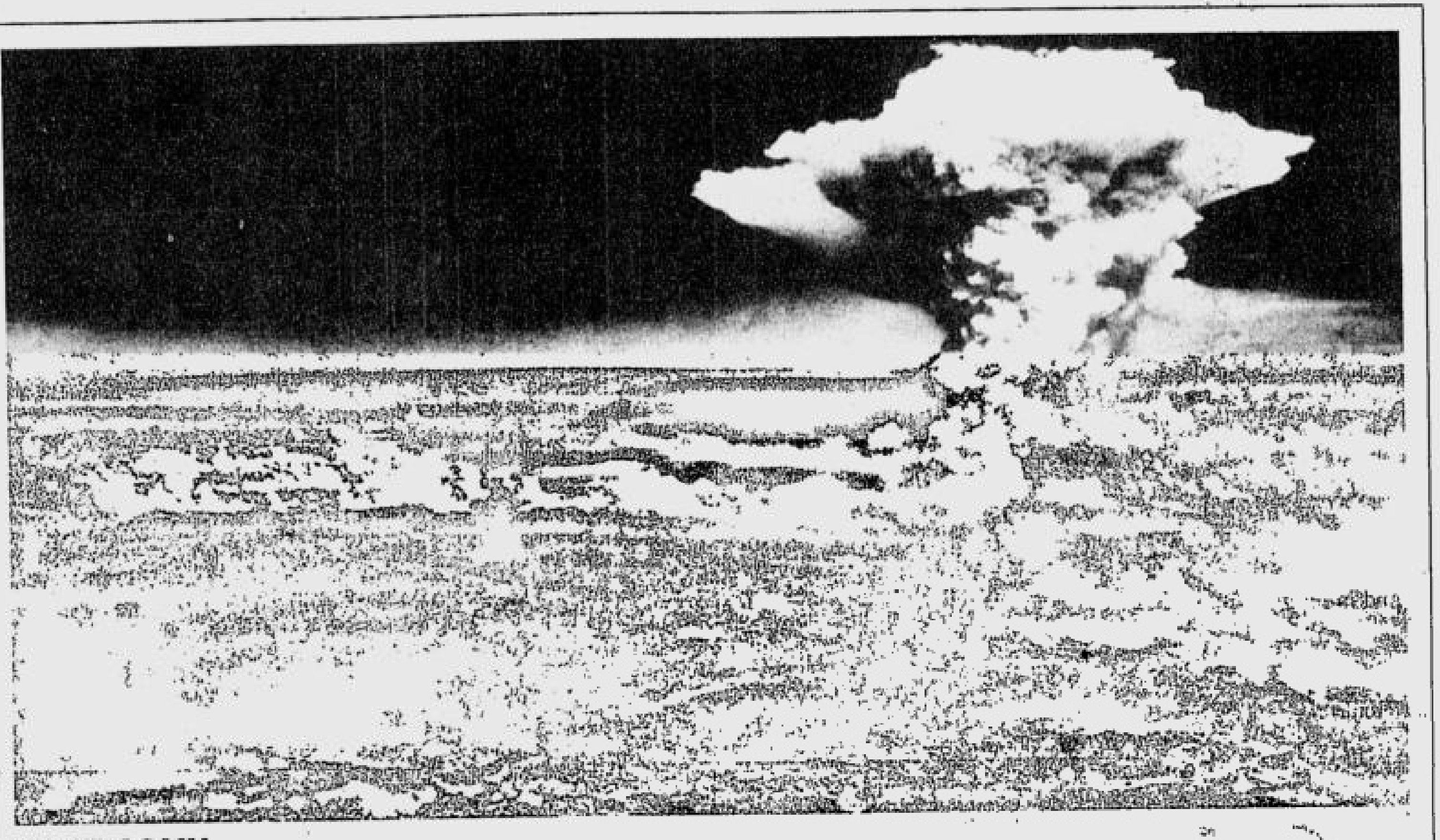
"We are worried and we wonder what's happening. We would like to have the strain to identify."

Gottschalk works in the world's only reference laboratory for Streptococcus suis at the University of Montreal in Canada and says no one in China has contacted him for help since the outbreak was reported last month.

So few people have studied this disease, he's unsure how the Chinese have been able to identify it and what type of vaccine they plan to use since immunizations typically are not effective. Chinese state media have reported that enough vaccine for 350,000 pigs has already been sent to Sichuan province from a company in southern Guangdong province and that enough doses for 10 million swine will be shipped later.

Gottschalk said Streptococcus suis usually takes a while to develop in people and often causes meningitis followed by partial or permanent hearing loss. Most people also survive after being treated with antibiotics and cases are typically few and far between—Thailand, for example, usually has less than 20 known cases a year, he said. China has reported more than 200 confirmed or suspected human cases since June.

The infected farmers who handled or butchered sick pigs have experienced nausea, fever, vomiting and bleeding under the skin.



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The plume of smoke from a mushroom cloud billow about one hour after a nuclear bomb was detonated above Hiroshima, Japan on Aug. 6, 1945. Two planes participated in this mission; the Enola Gay carried and dropped the weapon, and another was an escort. Estimates vary, but about 140,000 people are believed to have died in the nuclear blast.

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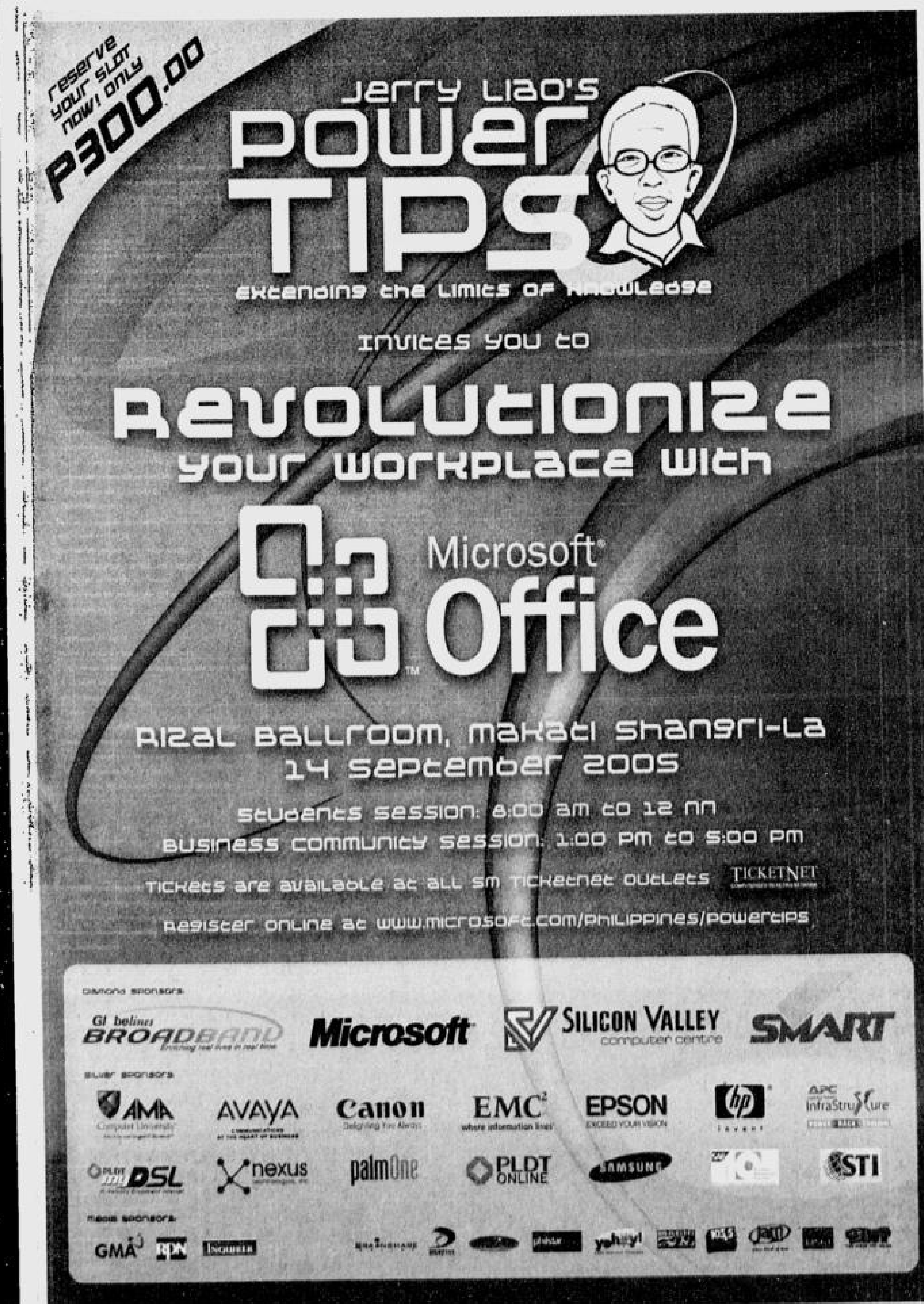

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Nokor nuke talks stall

BEIJING—Tough North Korean nuclear arms talks stalled on their ninth day Wednesday as the parties struggled to finalize agreement on the basic principles for ending a three-year standoff with the Stalinist regime.

Only North Korea among the six participating nations refused to approve a fourth draft of a joint statement prepared by host China on how North Korea might abandon its atomic arsenal and what it would get in return.

"We are confident that the Chinese will continue to work very hard to get the DPRK (North Korea) signed on to the draft as they have done with all the other participants," chief US delegate Christopher Hill said late Wednesday.

Hill was speaking to reporters after returning from the conference venue where China met separately with the other delegations, which also include South Korea, Japan and Russia, to hear their comments on the draft.

As he spoke at his hotel, his North Korean counterpart Kim Kye-gwan was also seen returning to the North Korean Embassy in a convoy. He did not make any comment to waiting journalists. *AFP*

Replication of dog reignites debate over human cloning

By Park Chan-kyong

SEOUL—The world's first cloning of a dog has raised concerns that scientists are one step closer to replicating human beings, despite the breakthrough pointing to treatments for currently-incurable human diseases.

A group of scientists from Seoul National University on Wednesday unveiled their furry creation, a black and white Afghan hound named Snuppy that is genetically identical to its three-year-old "father."

But while geneticists hailed the breakthrough as a step towards beating human diseases that have so far eluded medical science, others called for a worldwide ban on human cloning, saying that the pup had brought that eventuality nearer.

The achievement of the team led by Professor Hwang Woo-suk is considered so significant because many canine diseases such as diabetes, cancer, dementia and problems in heart muscles, hips and joints are similar to those in humans.

Professor Kong Il-keun, a cloning expert at Suncheon National University, said cloning dogs had immense clinical value because canines have 203 genes that can be used for studying human diseases while the pig has only 65.

King Chow, assistant professor of biotechnology at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology welcomed the latest advance, but warned that the scientific community needed to be on guard against possible human cloning.

"The development of the technology is a good thing in itself but how we monitor it and who we allow to use it will be of great importance," he said.

"If it has been done to help research and understanding of how humans developed from a single cell—an area in which there are huge holes in our understanding—then this is a very important development."

"But if it is to be taken further and applied simply to make multiple clones—then I have strong objections."

In order to create Snuppy—short for Seoul National University Puppy—the team had to create 1,095 canine embryos that were transferred into 123 surrogate bitches resulting in three successful pregnancies.

One fetus miscarried but two others were delivered, including Snuppy on April 24. The other cloned dog died after 22 days from pneumonia.

Gerald Schatten of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Hwang's research planning and technology advisor, said the poor success rate justified a ban on human cloning.

"Because this again shows that reproductive cloning is unsafe and inefficient, we call for a worldwide ban on human reproductive cloning, which is also unethical," said Schatten.

Since scientists first cloned a sheep named Dolly in 1997, researchers have gone on to clone mice, cats, goats, pigs, mules, horses and deer.

But of all mammals, the cloning of dogs is technically the most challenging because of the difficulty of acquiring mature eggs.

Some experts say the cloning of a dog demonstrates that most of key techniques needed to clone humans are now available.

"Bring me human eggs, the necessary social consensus and legal permission and I can get you your replica within a year," said Park Se-pill, a senior researcher of Maria Biotech and a top cloning expert.

"In contrast to widespread public belief, cloning a human is much easier than cloning a cow or a pig," Park said.

Hwang made international headlines in February 2004 when he announced the first-ever cloning of human embryos, from which his team harvested "therapeutic" embryonic stem cells.

But he said in June that the cloning of human beings would remain an impossible and dangerous fantasy for decades to come, and that it was "not only ethically outrageous and medically dangerous, but technically impossible." *AFP*

Troops oust leader of oil-rich Mauritania

OULD TAYA

NOUAKCHOTT—Troops seized power in the oil-rich northwest African country of Mauritania on Wednesday, overthrowing President Maaouyia Ould Taya while he was abroad and pledging to bring in democracy, in a move which sparked condemnation from US and other leaders.

"The military and the security forces have unanimously decided to put an end to the totalitarian practices of the regime from which our people have suffered so much in the last years," a statement quoted by the state news agency said, adding that the new regime would usher in democracy within two years.

The statement was issued several hours after troops took over the armed forces headquarters and state radio and television buildings at dawn, surrounding ministries and the presidential palace in the capital Nouakchott.

Although residents of the city later emerged from their homes to express support for the coup leaders in apparently spontaneous protests, the United States led international condemnation of the move.

The US called for "a peaceful return to order under the constitution and the established government of President (Ould) Taya," acting State Department spokesperson Tom Casey said, adding Ould Taya, a US ally, was "the established, constitutional president of Mauritania."

"Certainly there is no reason in our mind for any kind of extra-constitutional action," he said.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan also condemned the seizure of power, with spokesperson Stephane Dujarric saying he was "deeply troubled" by the reports and stressing Annan "condemns any attempt to change the government of any country unconstitutionally."

France called for democracy and the "legal institutional framework" to be respected, while Britain, as current holders of the European Union presidency, called "upon all sides to ensure full respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law."

Spain and the EU's executive commission in Brussels also condemned the move.

And in Africa, Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo called for the "immediate return to constitutional order," according to a presidency statement, while the African Union said it reaffirmed its "total rejection... of any unconstitutional change of government and the importance of respect for constitutional order."

The coup began early on Wednesday, with brief bursts of heavy weapons' and machinegun fire heard in the city as residents kept off the streets.

A military source close to the coup leaders, who asked not to be named, said a number of senior officers had been arrested, including the army chief of staff. He said however that no members of the ousted government had been detained.

Although residents initially stayed in their homes, later hundreds of people came out to back the ousting of Ould Taya and made their way along the capital's main streets shouting slogans in favor of the coup.

Shops and businesses meanwhile remained closed and military vehicles were stationed at key points.

The capital was peaceful late Wednesday, an AFP journalist said.

Ould Taya, a former army chief of staff who ruled with an iron fist since staging a bloodless coup in 1984, meanwhile landed in the west African state of Niger, an aide to Niger President Mamadou Tandja said in Niamey.

He had been in Saudi Arabia for the funeral of King Fahd, and was prevented from returning home when the military closed down Nouakchott airport.

The statement by the unidentified coup leaders said the ousted regime had put Mauritania on a dangerous course, adding: "For this reason, the military and security forces have decided to put in place a Military Council for Justice and Democracy."

They pledged to "establish favorable conditions for an open and transparent democratic system on which civil society and political players will be able to give their opinions freely."

In June 2003, an uprising failed to unseat Ould Taya, and was followed in August and September of last year by two more alleged coup attempts.

Ould Taya was a strong ally of the United States at the helm of Mauritania, which sits on some one billion barrels of oil and 30 billion cubic meters of natural gas, according to the government, but has scarcely begun production.

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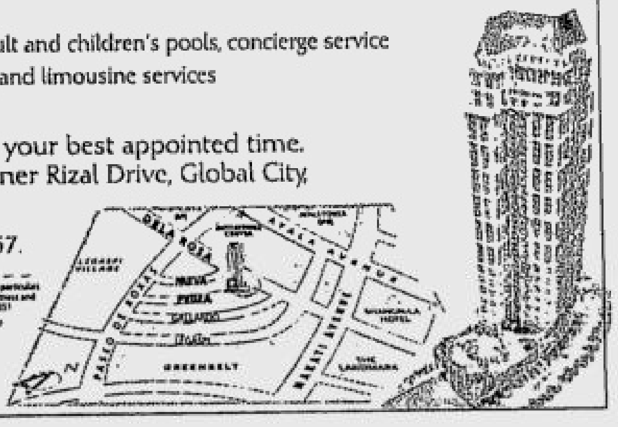

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Police charge 1st suspect in failed London bombings

LONDON—British police Wednesday filed their first charges against a suspect in relation to the failed July 21 bombings in London as moves to extradite two other men arrested in Italy and Zambia gathered pace.

Ismael Abdurahman, 23, was charged under antiterrorism laws and was due to appear before a magistrates court in London on Thursday, Scotland Yard said.

The man is not one of the four key suspects whose pictures were released after the abortive bombings. They are accused of carrying out the operation, which backfired after their bombs apparently failed to explode properly.

"Between July 23 and July 28 he had information he knew or believed may be of material assistance in securing the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of another person in the UK for an offense involving the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism," the charge against Abdurahman read.

Scotland Yard said the suspect, who lived in south London, was first arrested on July 28 under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) on suspicion of harboring an offender.

The following day, he was rearrested under the Terrorism Act.

The police also confirmed that a man who was detained at the weekend in Brighton, on the south coast, had now been released with no further action.

The British authorities are holding a total of 15 people in custody in relation to the attacks, while one of the prime suspected would-be bombers, Hamdi Issac, is being detained in Rome.

An Italian judge, meanwhile, said Britain had delivered the documents he needs to start extradition proceedings against Issac, a 27-year-old Briton born in Ethiopia who is also known as Osman Hussein.

Judge Domenico Miceli, in charge of the case, said a date for a hearing could be established this week and that the hearing itself might take place this month.

Issac was formally charged in Italy on Monday with international terrorism and with possessing false identity documents.

Britain considers Issac as one of four prime suspects in the botched attempts to bomb three Underground subway trains and a double-decker bus. The other three are among those in custody in London. *AFP*

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Nike unfazed by $3.8-billion Adidas-Reebok deal

SAN FRANCISCO—Adidas-Salomon's proposed purchase of Reebok gives the German sporting goods maker a larger share of the key US market but whether the combined company can topple Nike Inc. on its home turf is an open question, analysts said on Wednesday.

The planned $3.8-billion deal would create a formidable foe for the world's largest athletic shoe company, with the ability to gain leverage with retailers and draw from a bigger pool of celebrity athletes for endorsements, analysts said.

Yet others caution that new products such as the Shox running shoe and acquisitions of other brands such as Converse put Beaverton, Oregon-based Nike in a strong position to fend off rivals in a US market that accounts for more than 50 percent of the global sports footwear demand.

Currently, Nike holds an estimated 36 percent market share in the United States, followed by Reebok at 12.2 percent and Adidas at 8.9 percent, according to John Horan, publisher of industry newsletter Sporting Goods Intelligence.

Nike spokesperson Alan Marks said on Wednesday the company does not expect to change the way it does business.

"We always feel we win in our business when we stay focused on our strategies and our customers," Marks said. "It has always been a competitive business and it will continue to be a competitive business."

Horan said the combination of Adidas and Reebok would likely pressure smaller companies like K-Swiss, Puma and New Balance by forcing them to look to consolidate to remain competitive.

"Nike has its own strengths right now and I don't think (the deal) is going to have a huge impact on the momentum they have going right now," said Horan, who has followed the industry for nearly 30 years.

"It has more to do with the rest of the market and you will see more consolidation," he said.

Jamelah Leddy, an analyst at McAdams Wright Ragen, questioned how joining forces would allow Adidas to gain market share since both brands are already established in the United States. She said the key for Nike was sticking to the formula that has led to its recent success.

Nike has turned to other brands due to a slow-growing US athletic shoe market that has forced the company to look beyond its core US shoe business to boost sales. A trend toward high-priced athletic shoes like the Nike Shox has also helped boost profits and pushed its stock up near an all-time high.

"Nothing has changed for what Nike is doing going forward," Leddy said. "The deal is not enough to knock Nike off course."

Investors also did not seem to view the proposed deal as a big threat for Nike as the company's shares climbed more than 1 percent to close at $86.92 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The surprise deal would create a company with combined annual sales of about $11.1 billion, just below Nike's $13.7 billion in sales in its 2004/05 business year to May. *Reuters*

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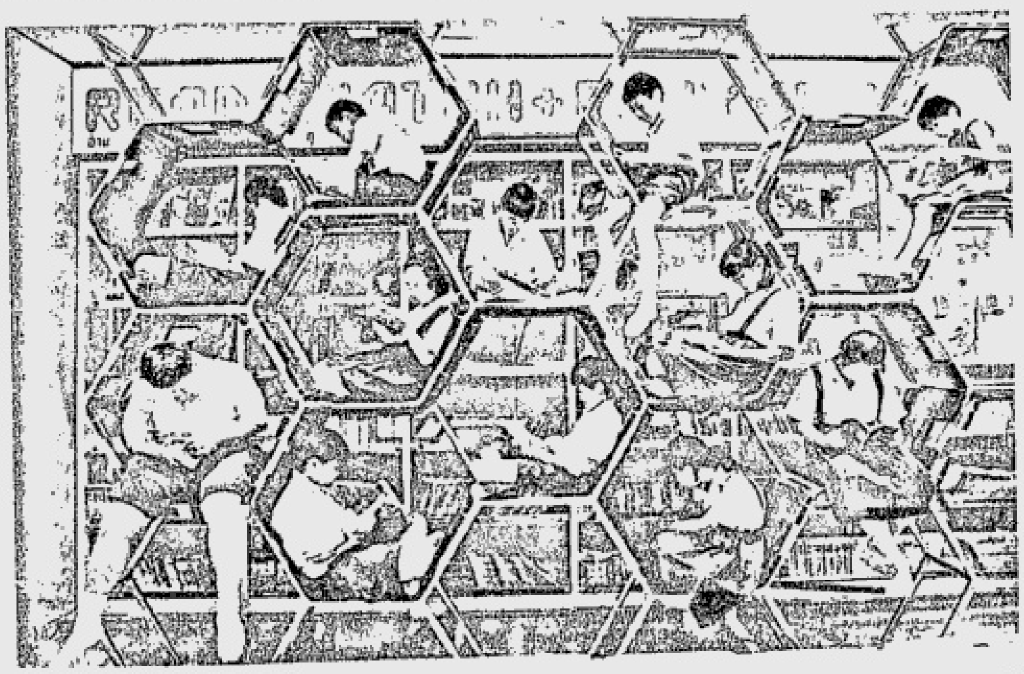

READ TO MOVE UP AP

Thai students read books at the Information and Communication Technology Ministry's learning corner in Bangkok, Thailand, Aug. 4. The Thai government has launched a campaign to eliminate illiteracy so that all the country's people can read and write.

Fourth space walk may be needed to ensure safe return of Discovery

HOUSTON, Texas—Nasa experts were investigating Thursday whether the crew of Discovery would need to risk another space walk to make final repairs to the shuttle, to ensure its safe return to Earth next week.

Discovery's crew were preparing the shuttle for its return voyage, the day after making a perilous repair to the underbelly of the spacecraft. But mission control continued to study the risks posed by a small piece of thermal blanket that has been knocked loose below the cockpit.

On Wednesday, US astronaut Stephen Robinson became the first astronaut ever to carry out a space walk beneath the shuttle during orbit, to extract two protruding pieces of fiber that risked overheating during the shuttle's reentry.

Dangling at the end of a 17.7-meter long robotic arm and equipped with a hacksaw and forceps, Robinson easily pulled out two small pieces of ceramic-coated fabric used as gap fillers between the craft's heat-resistant tiles, using only his gloved hands.

"I am just putting it in my trash bag," he said, triumphantly holding the first piece up for cameras.

Seven astronauts from the Discovery and two from the International Space Station were Thursday transferring supplies and equipment, waste and discarded gear to and from the station, in preparation for the shuttle's return to Earth, Nasa said.

On Friday, the Raffaello cargo module used in the transfer operations will be stowed inside the Discovery's payload bay, and the shuttle will be prepared for its undocking Saturday from the space station and its descent and landing on Monday.

Mission control team at Johnson Space Center were still, however, considering what to do about the thermal blanket below the shuttle cockpit.

Though it does not risk overheating during reentry to Earth's atmosphere since it is not located on the underside of the shuttle, Nasa engineers were worried the blanket might tear loose and cause damage.

Nasa said it was conducting tests in a wind tunnel to determine the impact the piece of blanket would have on the shuttle's outer structure.

Should a fourth space walk be necessary, it would take place no sooner than Saturday, said Nasa, which was to hold a press briefing at 1700 GMT.

Wednesday's operation lifted one of the doubts about Discovery's safety. Engineers feared the protruding gap fillers—two among thousands on the bottom of the shuttle—would cause overheating sufficient to destroy the craft in the same way as the Columbia, the shuttle that burned up on reentry on Feb. 1, 2003, killing all seven members of its crew. *AFP*

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New use for Celebrex okayed

NEW YORK—Pfizer Inc. said early this week that the US Food and Drug Administration has approved the company's selective COX-2 inhibitor Celebrex (celecoxib) for the relief of the signs and symptoms associated with ankylosing spondylitis, a form of arthritis that affects the spine.

Celebrex continues to be an important treatment option for patients suffering from the pain of osteoarthritis and adult rheumatoid arthritis, acute pain, menstrual pain, and as a treatment for familial adenomatous polyposis, a rare condition that leads to colon cancer.

Celebrex is supported by a large body of scientific evidence that has accumulated over 10 years and includes more than 40,000 patients worldwide.

As expected, the FDA also finalized the prescribing instructions, or label, for Celebrex for all approved uses, including additional warnings about potential cardiovascular and gastrointestinal risks.

The FDA also will require similar warnings for older arthritis treatments like ibuprofen and naproxen.

Ankylosing spondylitis, which affects over 400,000 Americans, becomes the sixth approved indication for Celebrex in the United States. Unlike other forms of arthritis that typically affect older people, ankylosing spondylitis usually strikes between the ages of 17 and 35. Approximately as common as rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis also can cause inflammation, pain and stiffness in other areas of the body such as the shoulders, knees, hips, ribs, and feet.

Germany reels from worst case of infanticide

BERLIN—Police investigating what may be the worst case of infanticide in German postwar history after the discovery of nine dead newborns said no further bodies were found Wednesday after searches of properties in the east of the country.

Officers with sniffer dogs searched the former apartment of the dead infants' mother, who has been charged with their deaths, in Eisenhuettenstadt in east Germany but found no further bodies.

They also combed the property in the eastern town of Brieskow-Finkenheerd, near the city of Frankfurt-an-der-Oder on the Polish border, where the tiny bones of the nine infants were unearthed Sunday.

"Fortunately nothing was found," a police spokesperson said, adding that the aim of the new searches was to rule out other victims.

The public prosecutor's office said the 39-year-old suspect, identified as Sabine H., was still being questioned after telling investigators she had only spotty memories of giving birth to the children while heavily intoxicated between 1988 and 1999 and leaving at least one to die under a blanket.

The unemployed dental hygienist, who claimed all the children were fathered by her estranged husband whom she finally divorced in May, said she stored the corpses in flower boxes and pots on her balcony before depositing them in a family shed.

Pathologists were still trying to determine the infants' cause of death.

Authorities had initially said the births had taken place over a 16-year period but new findings from the mother's interrogation revealed a nearly unbroken cycle of pregnancies and deaths.

Investigators were speaking to friends and relatives of the suspect, who is also the mother of four living children. A memorial service was to be held for the children Thursday in Brieskow-Finkenheerd.

An acquaintance of Sabine H.'s sister discovered small human bones in an old aquarium Sunday after being asked to clear out a shed belonging to the family.

He alerted police, who then uncovered the remains of eight other babies hidden in flower boxes and pots in the shed and in buckets buried under sand and earth.

Brandenburg state interior minister Joerg Schoenbohm blamed the legacy of communist East Germany and a "forced proletarianization," saying it had broken down societal structures leading citizens to turn a blind eye to violence and suffering.

"This unbelievable indifference is what strikes me the most," he said, in an interview in Wednesday's Berlin Tagesspiegel.

"I cannot understand how no one saw that this woman was in a critical situation and needed help. What were the parents doing, the neighbors?"

The remarks met with criticism from some east German politicians, with Eckhardt Rehberg in the neighboring state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern warning against a "one-sided judgement against the actions of an entire population." *AFP*

Insights
Ideas
Results
P. 16, 18, 20 & 22

Riots in Sudan kill 130

KHARTOUM—At least 130 people have been killed and around 350 wounded in three days of rioting in the Sudanese capital and a flashpoint southern town, officials said Wednesday, as deadly violence flared again amid international appeals for calm.

The rioting pitting southerners against northern Muslims which has followed the death of ex-southern rebel leader John Garang in a helicopter crash has threatened to plunge Africa's largest country into fresh turmoil.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) confirmed a report that 84 people had been killed in Khartoum since the rioting broke out on Monday.

"The Sudanese Red Crescent shared this report with us which we deem credible," said ICRC press adviser Larena Brander.

Meanwhile, at least 18 people were killed and hundreds wounded in the main south Sudanese town of Juba, an official from Garang's former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army and witnesses said Wednesday.

"At least 18 people were killed, including children," the official said on condition of anonymity, adding that some of the deaths were the result of battles between Sudanese security forces and southern Sudanese angered by Garang's passing.

Other witnesses recounted a day of clashes in Juba—the south's largest town where Garang's funeral is due to be held—saying southern Sudanese burned and looted businesses owned by Arabs considered close to the Muslim government in Khartoum.

Salva Kiir, Garang's replacement as head of the SPLM/A called for an end to the bloodshed which the international community fears could scupper a landmark January peace deal.

"Enemies of peace may want to take the opportunity of the situation so that they don't allow the government and the SPLM to implement the peace agreement" between Khartoum and Garang after two decades of north-south war, he said.

"We want this situation to be stopped as soon as possible so that security returns to Khartoum and its suburbs," Kiir said. *AFP*

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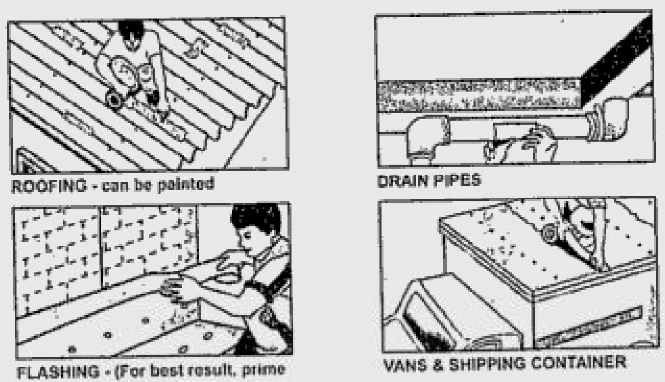

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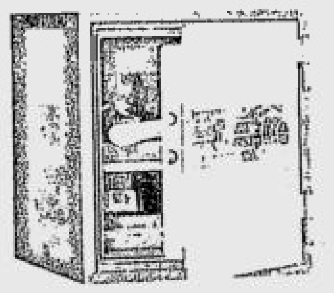

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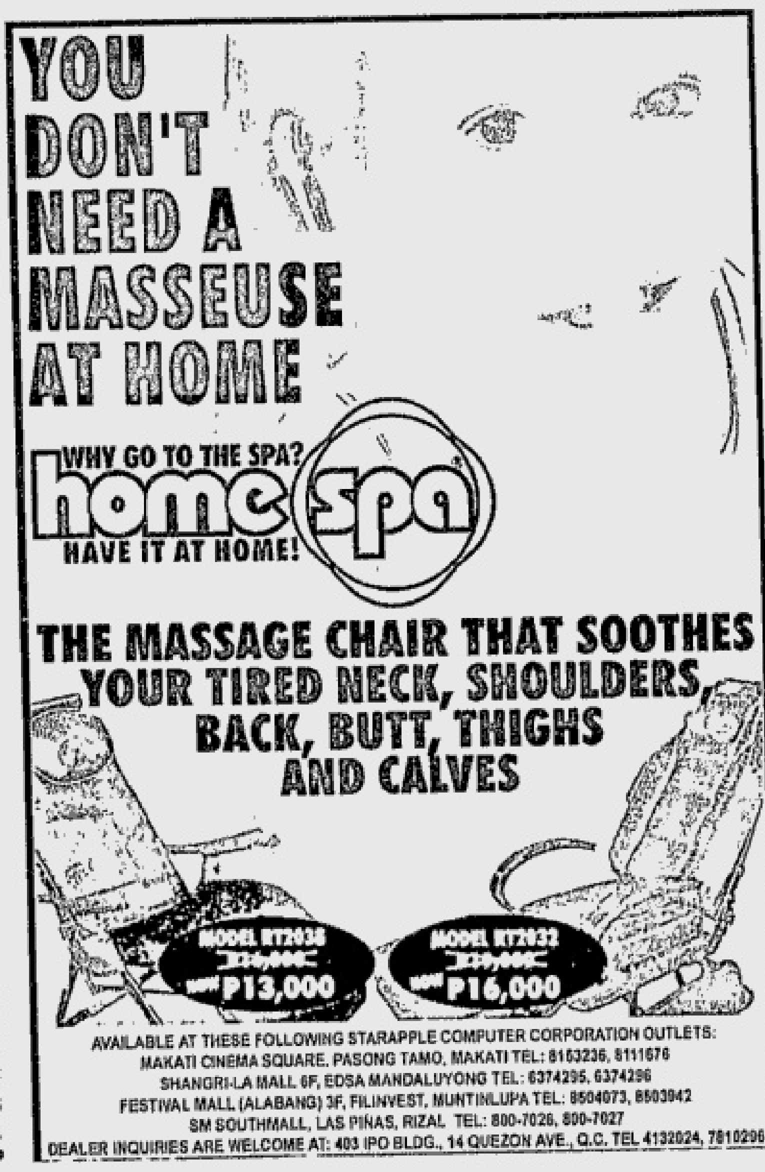

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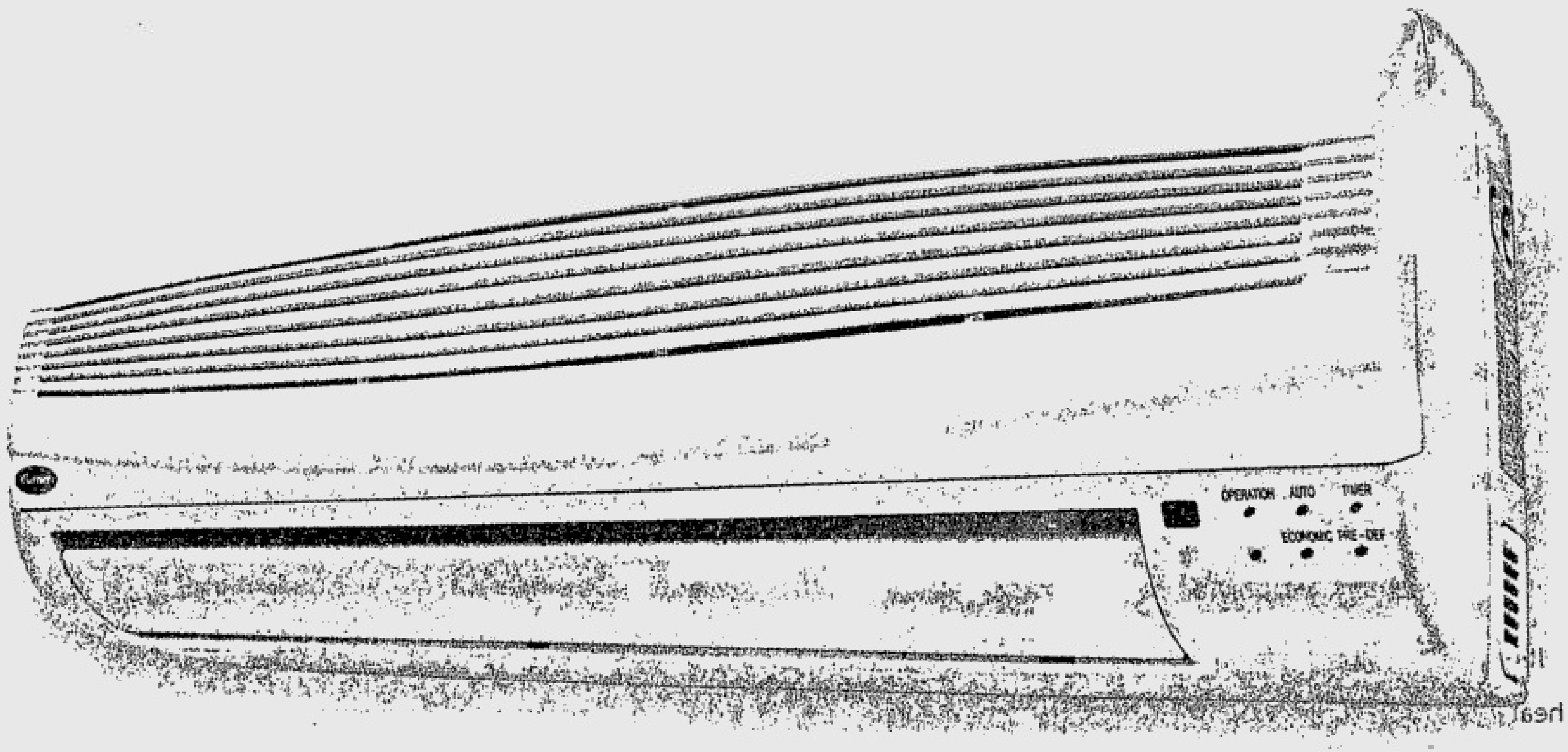

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ISSN 0116-2642
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Vol. 20 No. 238
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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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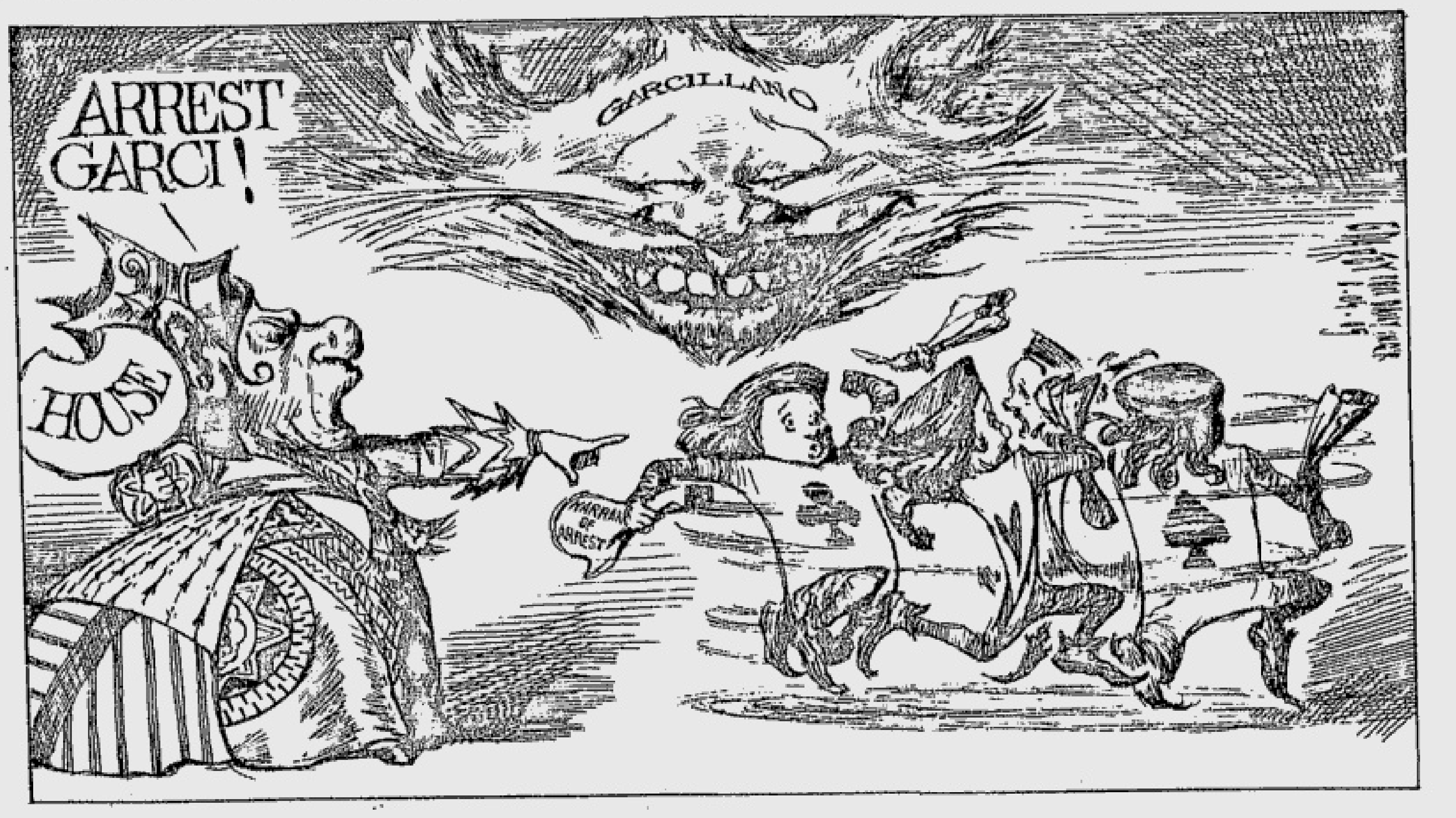

Slowing RATE

EDITORIAL

AFTER PROVING itself effective for three months, the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program of the government appears on its way to a shelf or, maybe, a graveyard. The irony is that the people who are taking it there are not the ones who are threatened by it but those who are duty-bound to ensure its success.

This much we can discern from the recent flurry of statements coming from no less than the leading members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's new economic team. Which makes it even more intriguing.

At the peak implementation of RATE—from the week after it was launched in March 2005 to June 2005—the nation saw an invigorated Bureau of Internal Revenue filing at least two tax evasion cases every week against prominent personalities and big business establishments in an effort to drive up tax collections. Indeed, the government itself touted RATE for its role in significantly improving the BIR's collection during that period.

Thus, it's rather strange that Deputy Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag, who has been less than a month in his post as interim head of the BIR, the agency primarily tasked with implementing RATE, has on several occasions indicated that he prefers to go back to the old practice of allowing tax evaders to settle deficiencies in their tax payments as a first option, instead of prosecuting them for tax evasion.

Veteran BIR officials say that "compromise settlements," never significantly raised tax collections. Worse, they promoted "a culture of tax evasion."

And even before this backsliding to a failed practice has been clearly adopted as official policy, the BIR proceeded to translate Buñag's preference into action. According to a recent INQUIRER special report, the agency last week "declined to file a case against an unnamed tax evasion suspect." This move—or "non-move," if you will—is rather surprising: first, because it definitely veers away from RATE; and second, because it seems to follow the call of Trade Secretary Peter Favila, another new member of Ms Arroyo's economic team, to go soft in reporting on people facing tax evasion charges. This gives the impression that the government is now implementing a policy of leniency for tax cheats, even if the policy has yet to be declared officially.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Buñag's immediate boss, buttressed this impression by saying that the weekly filing of criminal cases against tax evaders will no longer be a matter of course. He justified this decision as a move to ensure the quality of cases filed—as against RATE's seeming focus on quantity—and not a sign that the government is wavering on its tax drive. If that is the case, then RATE or the filing of tax evasion cases for that matter, may in effect be "dead in the water," as some BIR officials put it.

Of the 27 complaints filed under RATE since March, only one has been submitted to the Court of Tax Appeals for resolution. Finance officials blame the justice department for not acting on the cases. The justice department, for its part, is blaming finance officials for their lack of experience in criminal prosecution and proceedings. Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño noted that the BIR files cases without sufficient evidence. While BIR officials admit their inexperience with criminal cases, Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares says it's not all their fault. "DOJ doesn't have any idea about tax laws," she countered.

If this pointless bickering between the two agencies is allowed to go on, then the new finance chief will surely never get the "quality cases" he wants. Meaning, RATE is done with.

And yet, this problem between the BIR and the DOJ is not really insurmountable. It is just a matter of forging a closer partnership, closer coordination and closer cooperation of complementing each other; of one filling what the other lacks; of pointing out what one must do to make the other more effective in the arena of battle. Unfortunately, instead of threshing out the kinks, the officials of these two crucial agencies are throwing stones at each other, if not making excuses for their inaction.

Meanwhile, RATE is fast losing the "fear factor" on which it was anchored. It is increasingly becoming impotent against suspected tax evaders, like Richard Gomez, Jose Ignacio Arroyo, Rodolfo Pineda and many other rich and influential individuals and firms.

One wonders if the emasculation of RATE is intended or if our cash-strapped and crises-laden government is still interested in seeing it succeed.

IPP with P14,000 to build P800-M power plant?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo dared the opposition to impeach her. Don't march in the streets, she challenged, impeach me. She refused to answer directly accusations against her. "I will answer you in the proper forum (meaning, in the impeachment trial); prove your case in court" was her mantra.

Now it is becoming clear why she prefers to be impeached. There may never be an impeachment trial. Pro-administration congressmen will block the impeachment bid because they have the numbers.

"We have an overwhelming majority in the House," boasted Speaker Jose de Venecia. And Malacañang itself has boasted that they have signed up 170 congressmen who pledged to crush the impeachment bid. Expect pork-barrel allocations to flood the districts (and pockets) of pro-administration congressmen. Expect the coffers of the National Treasury to be drained even more. Far from our taxes going back to us in the form of services, they go instead to the yawning pockets of congressmen.

That is why an impeachment trial is a very imperfect way of replacing abusive, corrupt and incompetent presidents. A president may be as guilty as hell, but he/she goes or stays not on the basis of guilt but on how many legislators are in his/her pocket.

The opposition is not disheartened, though. It believes there are still enough congressmen out there who will sign the impeachment complaint when the time comes. They just don't want to come out now so that administration operators will not twist their arms to support GMA.

Yes, you congressmen were elected by the people. You represent them, not GMA. Eight out of every 10 Filipinos don't want her as president anymore. Do as the people order you to do.

* * *

Some over-smart power-plant operators apparently think Fidel V. Ramos is still president of the Philippines, or is its president again, from the way an independent power producer (IPP) is trying to smuggle a deal with the government. Ramos was notorious for signing so many onerous contracts with IPPs during his term that are now one of the main reasons for our very high electric rates.

Oriental Mindoro, with 400,000 electricity consumers, is serviced by one electric cooperative, Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Ormeco). It has a long-term contract with Mirant, a big international firm with other power plants all over the Philippines, to supply it with electricity. The contract still has many years to go.

However, Ormeco concluded a contract with a new IPP named Power One to supply it with electricity, long before its contract with Mirant expires. Luckily, before the contract becomes valid, it has to be approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

Under the agreement, Power One would have to put up a power plant costing at least P800 million to be able to supply electricity to Ormeco. During public hearings conducted by the ERC in Mindoro, however, it was found out that Power One has an authorized capital stock of only P1.56 million, with cash on hand of only P14,000! Furthermore, Power One has no track record to speak of in the energy industry. How can a company with P14,000 cash on hand build a power plant costing close to P1 billion?

Needless to say, all the local officials of Oriental Mindoro and the two congressmen of the province, oppose the contract. The City Council of Calapan (site of the proposed facility), represented by city legal officer Dante A. Manzo, has urged the ERC to dismiss the application of Ormeco to register its contract with Power One. Manzo questioned the "undue haste" with which Ormeco concluded the Energy Sale Agreement with Power One without the benefit of a competitive selection process in clear violation of guidelines set by the Department of Energy.

Evidently, the bilateral contract was fast-tracked without going through the processes mandated by the DOE and ERC for contracts of such nature.

Rep. Rodolfo Valencia, a former governor, cited the risk to the energy requirements of the province of entering into contracts with entities that may fail to deliver a vital service such as electricity. Why did Ormeco close such a controversial deal with Power One?

Valencia warned of negative repercussions for the population of Oriental Mindoro serviced by Ormeco should Power One fail to deliver. "Why must we needlessly risk the energy security of our province?" he asked. "It is unthinkable to depend on an entity that has not even put up a single power plant nor have the resources to do that."

Besides, if the contract with Mirant is unilaterally canceled, Mirant will have to sue Ormeco and the ERC for breach of contract and damages going into hundreds of millions of pesos.

* * *

Tomorrow, Saturday, it will be Valentine's Day in August at the Music Museum in Greenhills when Nonoy Zuñiga's "The Love Concert" opens at 8 p.m. The concert will feature songs from his "Love Album" which is a collection of old romantic favorites. Nonoy is currently on a nationwide mall tour to promote the album.

The album is one of the year's biggest sellers and marks Nonoy's successful return to recording. Two singles have been released: "Too Shy to Say" and "Moon River." Other songs in the album are "What Matters Most," "I'll Be Seeing You," "Someone Who Cares" and others. A duet with Regine Velasquez, "When I Fall In Love," is one of the best cuts in the album.

Nonoy will be joined by Nyoy Volante and Joey Generoso of Side A. The musical director of this Viva Concert production is Bobby Gomez.

Analog thinking in a digital world

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

WHEN Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye testified before Congress that he couldn't recognize GMA's voice in the "Gloriagate" CD, he explained that what he heard was "a copy of a copy of a copy of a copy of a copy."

That argument would have worked for cassette tapes, but not for CDs. When it comes to digital records, the data do not "degenerate" with each recopying. In my layman's understanding, digital records are merely arrangements of 0's and 1's, and a copy is as good as the original so long as that binary sequence remains unchanged. I can imagine Bunye's defense. In the pre-MP3 world, the copy was AAD—originally recorded in Analog, remastered in Analog (poorly, as Bunye would argue), and became Digital only in final form.

However, I must defend Bunye's analog thinking. It's simply a generational thing. Perhaps he recalled the last time he copied his 45 rpm record of Johnny Mathis onto a cassette and which, by the third recopy, started to sound like Diomedes Maturan (or vice-versa, if you are a true nationalist). When my son saw my dad's manual typewriter for the first time, he said: "Lolo's computer is really cool. When he types, it's already printing at the same time."

Indeed, I will confess to my own analog moments. Last year when I was loading up my music on my iPod, I was about to actually start typing by hand each song title in the iTunes list on my computer, good analog dinosaur that I am. Mercifully, my son took pity and clicked a few buttons, and to my delight, all the music information started cascading onto my screen like a flowing river from iPod heaven. But please understand that I belong to the last batch of lawyers who actually typed their court pleadings using a manual Underwood—and anyone who has typed anything in quadruplicate, using fragile "onion skins" and smudgy carbon paper, deserves a medal.

You can sniff out analog instincts everywhere. Secretaries who would rather retype a 20-page document, rather than search for it in their hard drive or use a scanner. Bosses whose e-mail messages look like formal letters because, not knowing how to use the computer, they dictate the message to someone who does. Teachers who make their students memorize lists and do other mind-numbing functions. People who actually read and highlight the manuals of their new software ("If it scrolls out of the screen, it's gone forever!"). Attorneys who always talk like they were conducting a direct examination of a witness, even in normal conversation (if that is at all possible with these types, God save the Republic!).

The analog world's last bastion is the law. We lawyers don't live in no Juristic Park for nuttin'. For instance, Filipino lawyers exalt the "separation of powers" among the legislative, executive and judicial branches as the epitome of legal wisdom. Yet Harvard constitutionalist Lawrence Tribe, a math whiz in his youth, has suggested that such mechanistic check-and-balance is a vestige of the Newtonian imagination. The separation of powers is the lawyers' version of what 18th century scientists knew: To prevent the government from abusing its power, you must design the constitution like "a machine that goes of itself," or in the words of The Federalist Papers, one that "would enable government to control the governed, and in the next place oblige it to control itself."

By 1928, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes already put down our Court's mechanistic thinking. Reviewing Springer v. Philippine Islands, a decision by the Philippine Supreme Court on the election of corporate directors, he said: "The great ordinances of the Constitution do not establish…fields of black and white…with mathematical precision [nor] divide the branches into watertight compartments." Instead, law is "a penumbra shading gradually from one extreme to another."

Today 77 years later, Filipinos still talk as if law is so exact, precise and predictable just like a manual Underwood typewriter—and ignore what Professor Tribe calls the "changing curvature of constitutional space."

Yesterday, at Bocobo Hall in UP Diliman, the Internet and Society Program sponsored a forum on Gloriagate Blogging. Prof. JJ Disini, fresh with his LL.M. from the Harvard Law School, convened a very dynamic group of the top Filipino bloggers and discussed the power of this new medium.

I am, though not a blogger, wholly fascinated. Before blogging, all public speech was regulated by media hierarchies and corporate behemoths. With blogging, Holmes' "free marketplace of ideas" has finally begun to operate on a level playing field (though not entirely cost-free, as Disini pointed out, and still shackled in the "prison of words," as Manolo Quezon said in the forum).

We must stamp out the vestiges of analog thinking, in favor of the digital imagination. The analog values the logical, the sequential and the hierarchical. The digital exalts the intuitive, the spontaneous and the democratic. The Xerox and the Betamax paved the way to Edsa I—the iron fist of martial law would have censored all news of Ninoy's assassination. Texters mobilized the mammoth crowds at Edsa II within hours of the vote on the second envelope. Perhaps Edsa III (or IV) will be a blogger's revolution, when the thinking but unorganized Filipino will make his voice heard, without the mediation of government or civil society elites.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Politics, prayer and fasting

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

RALLIES, marches, public relations experts and spin masters can usually be part of political change, but it seems clear this time we need more. Ordinary people are more apathetic than they've ever been in the country's great crises. Few attend the rallies, for or against the government, unless they're paid or pressured by their bosses, for example. A few are angry, but most are just apathetic. Apathy is the political equivalent of the sin against the Holy Spirit, namely despair and loss of hope that are both unforgivable and the end of the road.

An attempt to go beyond the old approaches is the initiative now at the Edsa People Power Monument. It calls for prayer and fasting and asks people to listen to God's voice in their heart, so they will know what to do in the present political turmoil. This effort of prayer begins with two premises: that we haven't listened enough in the past, and we don't know what the solution is now.

Three groups have united to organize the work: Pag-asa (Nicky Perlas), Kapatiran (Nandy Pacheco) and Gomburza (Fr. Robert Reyes, Fr. Raul "Puti" Enriquez and Msgr. Gerry Bitoon). All who join have committed themselves to prayer and fasting for 40 days and to make other sacrifices.

It is not a perfect work by any means. The crowds are small, though the organizers hope they will build up. People say there is too much political talk, as if it is already clear what God wants. Some people complain there is too much talk in general and little help with prayer: how should we pray and how should we know the voice we hear is God's and not our own? The activity is supposed to be for all religions and for people of no religion, but it seems nearly all are Catholic. The organizers are determined to improve in these matters.

What gives the effort its backbone and charisma is the presence of Father Reyes every day, all day at the monument. He is fasting, taking only fruit juices. On Sunday, July 31, he was on the 22nd day of the fast. "Attention must be paid to this man," to borrow a line from "Death of a Salesman."

Father Robert is my parish priest. I know he has many critics in and out of the priesthood. He has faults, for sure, most of which he readily admits and some he still has to face, but we should recognize that he is a special person. Some call him a "prophet." That's a lofty title for someone who often comes to our house to drink beer and talk. We are his parishioners in Project 4.

The People Power Monument is a wonderful place for this mixture of prayer, fasting and politics. Just 50 meters in front of the statue, where the MRT runs now, ordinary citizens stopped the tanks of Ferdinand Marcos. The tanks then broke through the stone wall into a field just south of the statue, now Corinthian Gardens, and waited for further orders. My memory of the whole situation is that it was touch and go: the soldiers were confused and surly and if ordered, I think they would have gone back and finished their journey to Crame.

There is no common political agenda in the group. Everyone is invited: people of contradictory opinions are welcome to come and sit quietly side by side. All religions are welcome.

The fast began on July 3 with a new moon, and for a night or two, Venus was close by. They were two young girls in the night sky, sisters, the older sister watching the younger play, a scene you see often in Manila. The noise of the traffic on Edsa makes it difficult to hear the speakers. If you're meditative or sleepy, however, the traffic roar begins to sound like the "Om" of Buddhist and Hindu mystics.

The fourth night at the monument, the first reading at Mass included the most beautiful lines in the Old Testament: "I have seen the humiliation of my people in Egypt and I hear their cry when they are cruelly treated by their taskmasters. I know their suffering. I have come down to free them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a beautiful spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey." (Exodus 3:8) Madre Filipinas at the top of the statue behind the priest held her hands high in exultation. Her chains, broken now, still hangs from her wrists. Such is the magic of the place and people praying for God's liberation and the special hour in the country's history that the words of God to Moses seem spoken again there at the Edsa monument.

Nearly everything remains to be done. People now have a place and an inspired commitment to prayer and fasting as part of a public search for God's will. No one knows what God will reveal. People may find answers to present problems. They may learn in prayer the proper fit between the Gospel and politics for the country, and even the proper fit between the Gospel and the Filipino people. How must the Gospel be preached and how do we pray?

We should be grateful for the work of Gomburza, Pag-asa and Kapatiran.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

No more doctors?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A SURGEON connected with a teaching hospital has a story to tell to illustrate not just why more and more doctors are emigrating to developed countries, chucking their medical degrees and reenrolling for nursing courses, but also why enrollment in medical schools has slipped drastically in recent years.

One of his interns, said the surgeon, approached him one day and asked: "Is there any specialty that won't require me to stay up late and where I can still earn lots of money?" Taken aback, the older doctor counseled the young man: "It still isn't too late. You can still shift and choose another profession, if that's your attitude towards medicine."

"The values of young people today have changed," the doctor sighed. Indeed, where before medical freshmen would confess unabashedly that they were going through the rigors of medical school to "serve" humanity or "heal" people, today the primary motive has boiled down to making pots of money, or at the very least to recover their and their families' investment in their medical education.

And with other trades and callings offering high salaries without need of investing more than a decade of hard work in basic training and specialization, it's no wonder fewer and fewer students today are choosing to go into medicine. In a paper written last year on "The Philippine Phenomenon of Nursing Medics," Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan and his co-authors noted with alarm a "decrease in the number of examinees of the National Medical Admission Test (NMAT) by 24 percent from 2002 to 2003." The decrease in first-year medical school enrollment ranges from 18 percent in some schools to as high as 74 percent. "Three medical schools have already closed down. Two private medical schools located in the rural areas are contemplating on closing down due to severely low enrollment of less than 20 this school year," Tan et al. add.

* * *

FRONT-PAGE reports yesterday saying that the Department of Health has finally expressed alarm at the situation need to be taken in the context of the overall deterioration of the country's "health human resources."

Indeed, the situation is alarming, what with latest statistics showing that some 6,000 doctors are currently enrolled in nursing classes, with a nursing job in the United States, Canada or Europe as their goal. And with no prospect of replenishing the country's supply of doctors, what with the erosion in medical enrollment, it may not be too farfetched to anticipate the day when we would no longer have any doctors here. Health Secretary Francisco Duque is right when he says that the situation is "extremely threatening to the health care system."

The problem seems even more desperate when we consider how the exodus of doctors for abroad or to nursing has been paired with a similar exodus of nurses and other health care personnel.

"While the Philippines traditionally produces a surplus of nurses for export since the 1960s," notes Tan, "the large exodus of nurses in the last four years has been unparalleled in nurse migration history."

Nurses who are leaving are not being replaced. Tan says just as disturbing as the accelerated departure of nurses is the "deteriorating quality of nursing education." Though the number of nursing schools in the country has increased tremendously, this increase in the "supply" of nursing graduates has not translated into an equal increase in the "supply" of qualified nurses.

In the 1970s and 1980s, says Tan, the proportion of nursing graduates passing the board exams ranged from 80-90 percent. Since 2001, though, the proportion of passers has hovered around 44 to 48 percent. While some 50,000 Filipino nurses are estimated to have left the country in the last four years, the **number of new licensed nurses in the same period has reached only 20,000.**

* * *

ANECDOTES and testimony bear out the disturbing statistics.

So desperate are medical schools for enrollees, perhaps to make full use of their expensive facilities and equipment, that they are offering scholarships to nursing graduates. Even then, the would-be nurses are turning down the offers, preferring the more lucrative offers from abroad.

Doctors and medical administrators talk of how difficult it has been to hire new personnel, with some provincial hospitals forced to close down due to their failure to hire new doctors or nurses. "I even find it difficult to hire new nursing aides!" says Dr. Cecile Llave, director of the UP Cancer Institute.

Tan et al. have several suggestions for addressing the situation. One is the forging of bilateral agreements with the governments of "receiving" countries or with foreign medical institutions which would compensate the Philippine government or medical institution with funds to be used for medical and nursing scholarships for destitute students.

Another is a National Health Service Act which would require compulsory medical service from graduates of state-funded medical institutions. "A compulsory, instead of voluntary service, is called for since the situation now is more critical and entirely of a different nature from the past decades of health professional migration," notes Tan.

* * *

"ONCE on This Island," the noted musical with a "fabulous" cast that received rave notices in its earlier staging, returns to the stage starting tonight until Aug. 14 at the RCBC Theater in Makati.

The good news is that while the same cast, composed of stage veterans as well as newcomers who're proving to be the discoveries of the moment, will be performing, improvements in staging and direction have been made for an even better viewing experience. Direction is by Bart Guingona.

Those interested should text Hendri at 09178155794 for more information and reservations.

The coming of the mandarins

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IF you make a survey of Philippine history from ancient times to the present, you will notice that the late 19th century is covered by a lot of research and writing. We have thousands of years of history and yet the period from 1872 when Gomez, Burgos and Zamora were executed to 1896, which covers the execution of Rizal and the beginnings of the Philippine Revolution, and then to 1898, when Aguinaldo was in a position to declare independence from Spain, takes up all the attention.

Roughly a period of 25 years becomes the fulcrum of our entire history. How come we know so little about pre-colonial life or even the four centuries of Spanish rule? Surely, there is much that we can learn from or at least enjoy as stories in this period.

The other era that is studied is the 20th century, particularly the lives and times of Filipino political leaders from Manuel Luis Quezon to Joseph Estrada (unless, of course, you wish Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is history as well). Here political history is the focus, thereby obscuring other things we can learn in terms of social, economic and cultural history. If only history is taught in its fullness and complexity, perhaps students would not dread the subject and be armed with perspective.

In school, I learned about the great Chinese revolt of 1603, one of many that would plague the Spaniards so much that we were told the Chinese were forced to stay in a ghetto called the Parian, outside the gates of Intramuros where the present Post Office and Metropolitan Theater now stand, and that the cannons of the city were permanently aimed at and ready to fire on the Parian at the slightest sign of unrest.

There are so many accounts of the 1603 revolt from different angles, they make absorbing reading. We have the names of major participants from the Spanish Governor-General Pedro Bravo de Acuña to a Chinese resident named Eng Kang who was converted and baptized Baptista de Vera (the surname came from the governor-general at the time of his baptism). Eng Kang was said to have been one of the pirates left behind by Limahong who almost took over the Philippines. More interesting was that Eng Kang was allegedly a kept man, having "served the pirate for a lewd purpose." Now that I leave to the imagination.

The story actually begins with the arrival of three mandarins from China on May 23, 1603, sent by Emperor Wan Li to verify reports regarding a "mountain of gold" in Cavite. Perhaps the emperor should have inquired more discreetly because the high-profile visitors gave rise to rumors that China was planning to take over the Philippines. That would have been the case if the Cavite golden mountain did exist, but it was just another urban legend. The mandarins returned to China with the bad news that no gold nor silver could be found in Cavite, and the courtiers who had brought this tale to the emperor's ear were executed in 1604.

From the Spanish eyewitness account of the visit, the mandarins were quite a spectacle traveling on sedan chairs carried on the shoulders of four men. They had archers as bodyguards and even had two men carrying a porcelain box suspended from their shoulders that allegedly contained their "*chapas*" or the seal of document of their authority. Behind them traveled their secretary on horseback. The rest of the party was described as follows:

"Before them go in file six Sangleys with staves upon their shoulders, on the ends of which are white tablets with characters of gold, which is said to be [their] insignia. Six other Sangleys carry little banners of different colors, with characters written upon them in Chinese tongue, which are said to indicate the great authority and wide jurisdiction of said mandarins. One Sangley, who they say is a minister of justice, bears a piece of cane as thick as one's arm, lacquered in black. Among these goes a Sangley with two small kettle-drums and four others with canfonias and other musical instruments which they use, all of them playing. Before all these people go six Sangleys, two of whom carry two iron chains, which are said to be put on those whom they are ordered to arrest; two others carry two cords tied to sticks upon their shoulders, which are said to be used to tie those whom they are ordered to flog; the other two, who are called upos, which is the same as executioners in España, bear two half-canes four fingers wide and a braza long, with which they flog the delinquents, whom they wish they could kill with a few strokes. Between these go two Sangleys each one of whom cries in his own language, from time to time, with loud shouts; and it is said that they are calling out: 'Make way, the mandarins are coming,' and as soon as they come out of the house and until they return these cries are kept up..."

Today, motorists complain of high-handed security escorts of government minions. In the 17th century, people complained of the Chinese mandarins and their escorts.

This was but one irritant. And as one rumor led to another, the city's defenses were beefed up, the Chinese in Manila were maltreated and on Oct. 3, 1603, the feast of St. Francis, Tondo and Quiapo burned. Intramuros survived but the aftermath left thousands of Chinese dead.

Why did this happen? What lessons do we learn from it? Those are not in our textbooks.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

ET takes the LRT

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IF other planets had intelligent life, they'd be producing anthropologists too. And if one of those alien anthropologists ever landed on earth and checked with me on how they could quickly gain insights into a country's society and culture, I'd tell them to check out their metros, or urban rapid mass transit systems.

Let's imagine now one of these extraterrestrial (ET) anthropologists from the planetoid Quaoar (that's close to Pluto) landing on earth. Courtesy of a transponder, she (female anthropologists are always bolder and more insightful) becomes one of us, taking every metro on earth, the "REC" button, built into her brain's frontal lobe, busily recording everything, including her thoughts on what she sees.

Let's imagine, too, having access to the notes from one such anthropologist recounting her visits to different cities on our planet, including Manila.

Political will

Earthlings, and especially Filipinos, like to use a term called "political will," which can be loosely defined as the determination of governments to do some good for their people. It's something difficult to measure, but I'm convinced now that a country's mass rapid transits—whether they're present or not, how many there are, how much they cost, and the conditions they're in—can be infallible indicators of political will.

Our data banks show that the most developed countries on Earth have such systems. These systems rapidly transport hundreds and thousands of people each day from their homes to their destinations: their workplaces, schools, places of worship, as well as parks, theaters and other recreational areas. The rapid transport allows people to arrive at their destinations fresh and alert and of positive and cheerful spirit.

The best part about rapid mass transit systems is the way they help to preserve the environment. Some developed countries, like the United States, still prefer individual transport vehicles, which means paying a heavy price in terms of their dependence on processed fossil fuels from earth. These fuels are processed into something called gasoline to run their vehicles. Although the US produces its own gasoline, its demands are so heavy it still has to import the fuels. So precarious is its dependence on a particular region on earth that it has to go to war to keep its access open to these countries. Then, too, gasoline is a major source of pollutants with serious effects on earthling health.

In so many words then, mass transit systems tell us about how governments care about people's welfare, as well as their concern about preserving environmental integrity. The political will seems to have been exerted quite early in some countries: the London Underground, for example, was inaugurated way back in 1863.

Tale of two transits

So what does Manila's mass transit tell us about their leaders?

Manila and the Philippines seem to have followed the lead of their former colonial master, the United States, with little effort to develop rapid mass transit. There are thousands of private vehicles, owned mainly by the rich and the middle class, but most Filipinos have to rely on a mass transit system consisting of dilapidated buses, usually passed on after use in Japan, and jeepneys, which used to be hailed as mobile works of art but are now drab smoke-belchers using low-grade processed fossil fuel called diesel.

Both bus and jeepney drivers are themselves worthy of study. My chemical scanner kept registering extremely high levels of lead in their brains, obviously coming from the fossil fuels. The lead impairs their intellectual capacities; even worse, many of them seem to be powered by a crystalline substance called *shabu*, which keeps them awake, alert and unduly aggressive. Trips on these *shabu*-powered jeeps and buses can be major ordeals, passengers arriving at their destinations looking like survivors of a major inter-galactic battle.

A cleaner and more efficient mass transit system is being developed in Manila. A Light Rail Transit (LRT) was inaugurated in 1984, followed years later, in 1999, by a Metro Rail Transit (MRT). The two systems total 37 kilometers and were built over more than 20 years, certainly a revealing indicator of political will.

I've taken several trips on the two metro systems and I can say it's like visiting two countries. The MRT runs through a more modern part of the city, with an upper-middle class clientele. The trains can become quite crowded at certain hours but trips are generally quiet and uneventful, passengers wrapped in their own worlds with personal sound systems called MP3 players.

The older LRT runs through a run-down part of the metropolis. The trains are falling part, maintenance neglected perhaps because it caters mainly to a lower-middle class stratum. The ordeal starts even when purchasing tickets, with long queues and people constantly trying to break into the lines while other irate commuters scream expletives in protest.

Asses

Many LRT commuters have to take the jeepney or bus before getting on the trains, and it is clear the high lead levels in their brains have affected them—they seem unable to understand what it takes to board a train. Every train that arrives sets off a stampede, with commuters trying to squeeze in even when it's obvious there's no more space. Once I saw the train doors suddenly shutting with a commuter's bag caught in between. Electronic sensors automatically reopened the door, giving the commuter a chance to pull her bag back ... but in the process, three more lead-poisoned earthlings tried to jump into the train.

Trips on the LRT are tense. I was warned not just to watch my belongings but also my ass, an English slang term for the rear part of earthling bodies. The LRT stations do have a special section for females to board but all genders eventually end up in the same train, subject to the same risks of having their ass picked or pinched.

Asses are frequently on Filipinos' minds these days. One of their newspapers recently had a front-page headline about something called the Con-Ass, accompanied by the picture of someone's behind, but I am told the Con-Ass is a different matter, that it is meant to be a grand Convention of Asses. Here, ass is used as a Filipino term of endearment for politicians, yes, the ones who exert political will and decide on mass transit systems.

But I digress, and my friend Mike Tan is complaining that this column is getting much too long. I will try to write again some time. Now I must beam myself back to Quaoar, where, I have to say, we never had metros. Alas, and this is fair warning to Filipinos, we insisted on an equivalent of your SUVs; alas, we too were governed by Asses, who ended up destroying our planet. Which is why we anthropologists are scouring the galaxies now for guidance from intelligent, even if lead-poisoned, forms of life.

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Relics of unenlightened past

THE RECENT death of Hook, a 13-year-old female whale, at Ocean Adventure Park illustrates why marine mammals do not belong in captivity. ("Whale death revives calls for Subic park's closure," PDI, 7/18/05)

In open waters, marine mammals, such as killer whales and dolphins, may swim up to 100 miles a day. In marine parks, these animals face the same walled environment day in and day out, swimming in endless circles. A killer whale in a marine park will have to swim around the edge of a typical tank more than 500 times just to cover 50 miles.

Marine park trainers force newly captured dolphins and killer whales to learn tricks by withholding food from those who refuse to perform and by isolating them. According to former dolphin trainer Ric O'Barry, "positive reward" training is a euphemism for "food deprivation."

Captivity may also drive some of these highly intelligent animals insane. Dolphins navigate by echolocation, bouncing sonar waves off objects to determine their shape, density, distance and location. In a tank, says Jean-Michel Cousteau, dolphins "are bombarded by a garble of their own vocalizations .... Because these are sounds of communication as well as navigation, their world becomes a maze of meaningless reverberations."

Marine mammal parks are relics of our unenlightened past; and facilities such as the Ocean Adventure Park should close their doors for good. In the meantime, the best thing any of us can do is refuse to visit parks and zoos that have captive marine mammals on display.

—DAN ABRIL,
representative,
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta Asia-Pacific),
DanA@peta.org

DAWN's partnership with gov't agencies

THE DEVELOPMENT Action for Women Network (DAWN) wishes to thank the INQUIRER for the feature story, "Giving women a second chance," written by Joyce Abaño on Sikhay, the alternative livelihood program of DAWN. (PDI, 7/17/05)

However, we wish to correct a certain portion of the article, which says that DAWN provides training to other groups like the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). DAWN never claimed such a statement. Organizations such as the the DSWD, PTRI and Tesda, have helped train some of the women members of DAWN.

Since its establishment in 1996, DAWN has trained 106 women under its skills training programs. Some of these programs were provided by government institutions. For example, the DSWD has trained 22 women-members of DAWN on basic sewing and industrial machine operation. Since 1999, the PTRI has trained 29 of our women-members in tie-dye technology and handloom-weaving. Tesda has also provided training to five women on basic sewing, pattern-making and cutting.

We hope this will clarify the matter. We also would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTRI, Tesda and DSWD for the technical support they have given and continue to give us.

—CARMELITA G. NUQUI,
executive director,
Development Action for Women Network (DAWN),
Rm. 514 Don Santiago Bldg.,
1344 Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila

Right time to do what is right

I AM writing as a wife and a mother. It would be very easy to just concern myself with taking care of my husband and my two young children. But I feel I have a responsibility not just to my family but to my country as well.

I feel that there is something that I have to ask the Catholic Church. As you well know, our country is in a political crisis. President Macapagal-Arroyo has admitted an indiscretion and wishes to close the chapter on the "Hello Garci" tapes. But how can we close this chapter when the whole truth has yet to come out? The President says all Filipinos are equal under the law and yet her continued occupancy of Malacañang betrays that assertion.

Forgive my bias, but I don't think the President appointed Virgilio Garcillano for his integrity. How can we give the commissioner the benefit of the doubt when he cannot even face the Filipino people? We can have our different interpretations of the conversations between him and the President, but one thing is all too clear: the Palace attempted a cover-up. And GMA must take full responsibility for this betrayal of public trust.

I am writing this letter in the hope that the Church will press for the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

If you would allow me to quote Martin Luther King Jr: "The time is always right to do what is right." And with all due respect, I can think of nothing worse than knowing what is right and not doing anything about it.

I trust that the Church will do what it ought to and the time is now.

—DANIELLE S. LIZARES,
30 Mercury St.,
Bel-Air, Makati City

Impeaching GMA

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

The following readers' responses to the ongoing national crisis are posted on the INQ7 blog Talking Points (http://news.inq7.net/talking-points/). Some have been condensed to meet space limitations.

THIS [impeachment] should be immediately taken up by Congress. They should prepare all the evidence and pass a resolution calling for the impeachment of the President. That's the constitutional process. The tapes are such damning evidence, and impeachment is the best way of resolving the issue of her guilt or innocence.—**Tom Matic, 62 16th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

* * *

The truth should be laid bare in a fair, orderly and logical manner, where all sides will have a chance to prove their truth. The search for truth may not be fast, but it should be done in a deliberate manner. Is anyone with a sane mind listening out there?—**Butch Cruz, 15 Narra St., Project 3, Quezon City**

* * *

What strikes me most is the resignation of seven Cabinet members. Loss of investors' confidence as the main pressure for the President to quit did not happen as they expected. The Makati Business Club [also] claims the economy is the main reason she should quit. But man does not live by bread alone. I believe we cannot live by the stock market or our currency value alone.—**Luisito Virtucio, Via A. Mantegna 4, Galliera Veneta (PD), Italia**

* * *

Being in another country has only made me prouder of my country. But hearing again about political turmoil paralyzing it makes me sad and angry. Why is this happening to us again? Philippine history has so much to offer the world. I want to be part of the culture that breeds pride in who we are and where we come from. People in power have a responsibility to those toiling to make a future. To those in government: Why is it all about politics? The Philippines is its citizens. Without them, we are no longer a country, just a strip of land. Please stop this.—**Mariless Villamar, Via Lunga n. 29, Florence**

* * *

It seems history is really repeating itself in the Philippines. For (Ferdinand) Marcos to hold on to power, there was an election for the Constitutional Convention in 1970. Then martial law was declared and the rest is history.

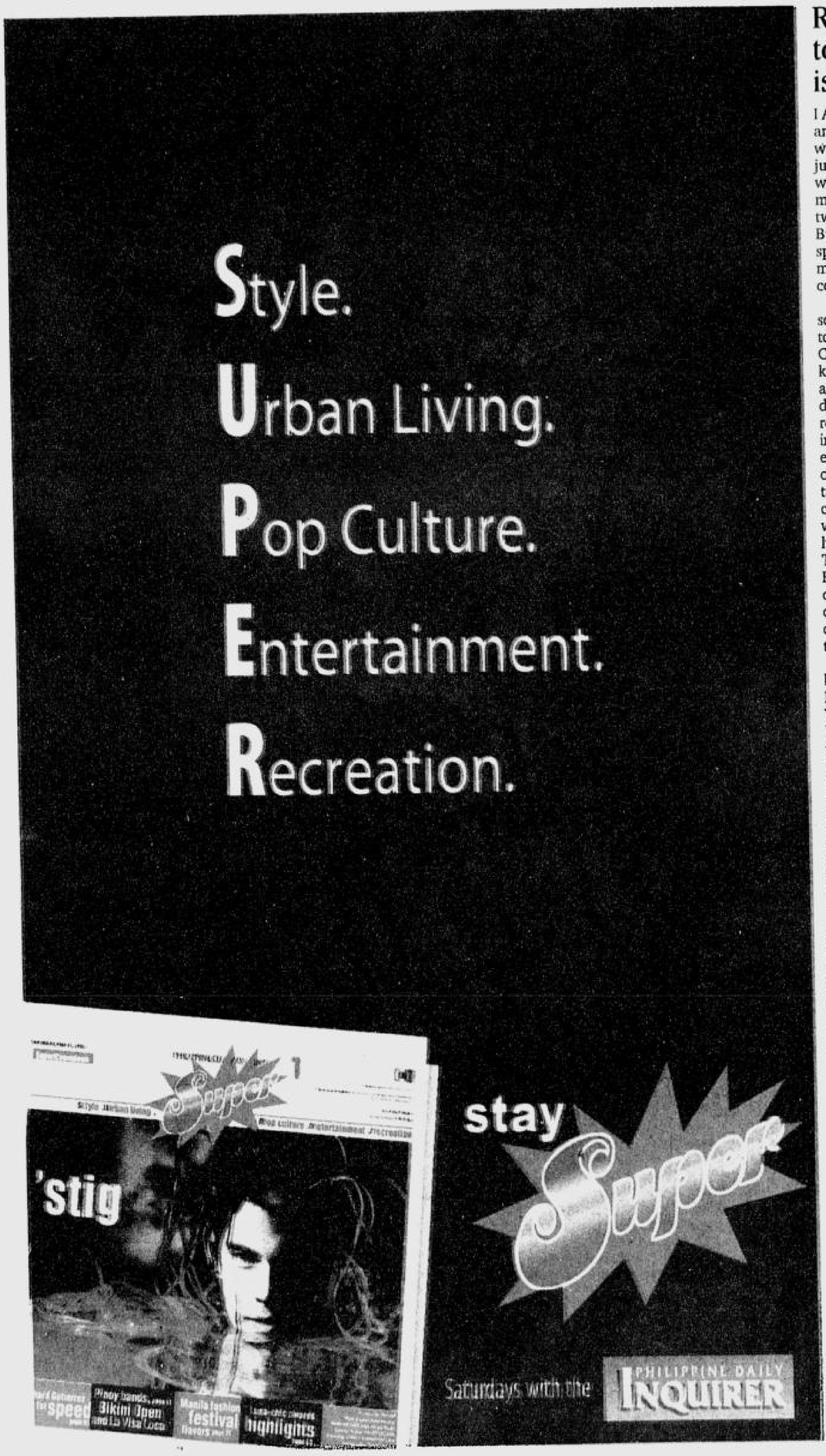
Now with all the scandals plaguing her administration, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wants to hang on and maybe end up maintaining her power through Charter change. The Philippines seems poised for another Marcos-style regime. A pity. It seems that although Filipinos are generally intelligent, they never learn and will never experience a mature democracy.—**Luisito Virtucio, Via A. Mantegna 4, Galliera Veneta (PD), Italia**

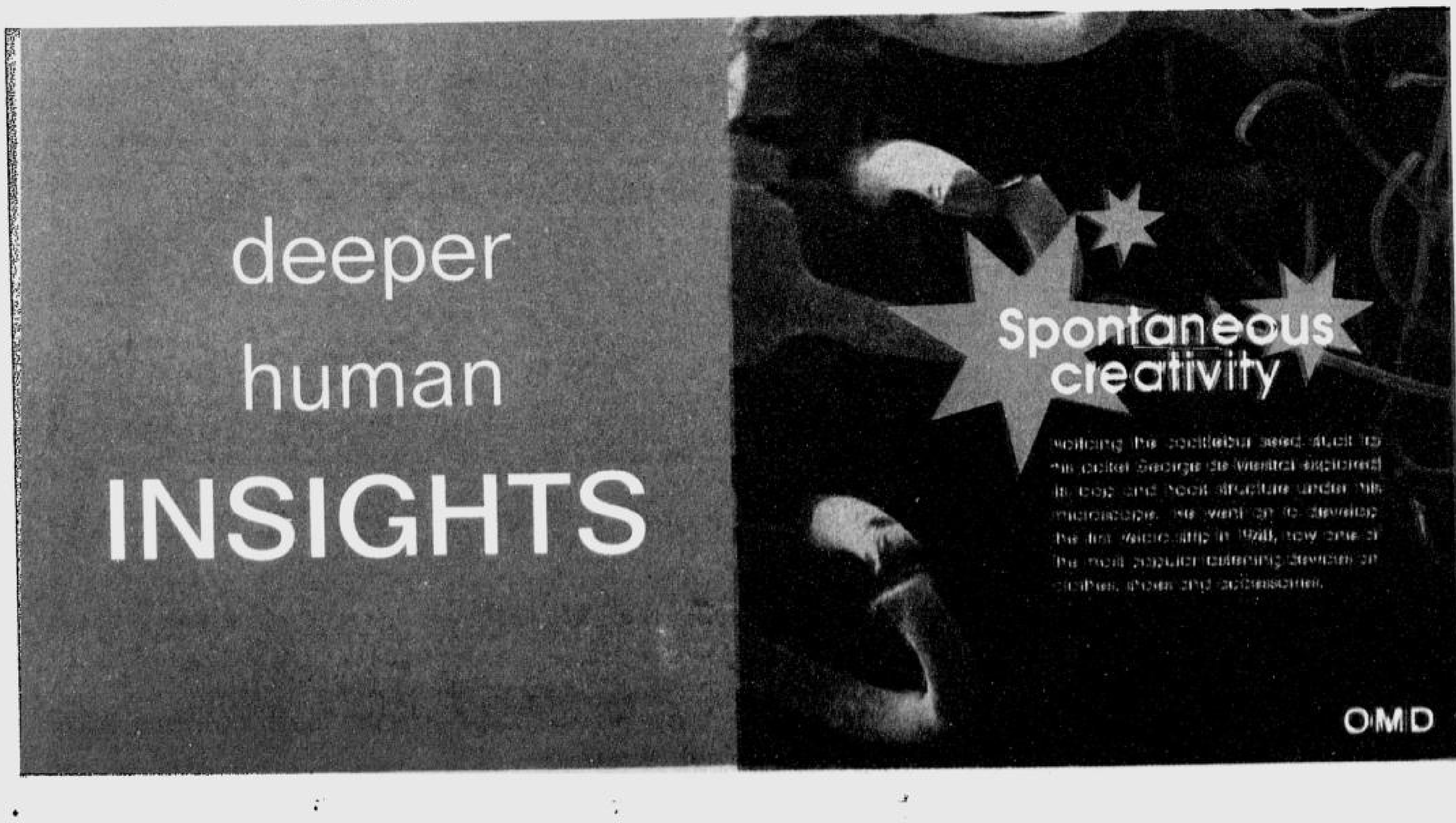
* * *

The whole truth should not go unanswered. The truth commission must be commissioned [to discover] if the facts are impeachable or not. The process should run its course; impeach the President if the evidence warrants. Those responsible for wiretapping must be punished to the full extent of the law.—**Oscar Aujero, 800 Baydon Lane Chesapeake, VA 23322**

* * *

I agree 100 percent with Senate President Franklin Drilon's decision not to clap during the State of the Nation Address. It's his prerogative to be rude and ungentlemanly. The Constitution does not prescribe courtesy. I for one am disappointed with him.—**Esmeraldo Deang Cato 39-16 54th Street, Woodside, NY 11377**





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FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Across the NATION

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Marine park to stay open, say owners

By Blanche S. Rivera

Whale Encounter
Ocean Adventure
CAMAYAN WHARF
SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES

WHALE encounter, one of the shows featured in Ocean Adventure, is one of the park's crowd-drawers. PDI FILE PHOTO

THE POPULAR Ocean Adventure marine park in Subic Bay would remain open and operational despite a cease-and-desist order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ocean Adventure president John Corcoran said the order that was served to the park's officials on Tuesday was only a legal instrument to assert the DENR's jurisdiction in the issuance of environmental compliance certificates in Subic Bay.

He said the park has received assurance from Environment Secretary Michael Defensor that it could continue its shows, rescue operations and other activities while the Environmental Management Bureau in the region processes its ECC.

"We remain open because we were told by the DENR that it is the procedure while processing the ECC. We would not do anything that is not compliance with the law," Corcoran said in a press conference in Quezon City yesterday.

He said the order was only a reiteration of the first order issued by the DENR in March 2001 when the DENR ordered Ocean Adventure to stop construction of the park while a case is pending in court.

The DENR and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority have been engaged in a legal battle to determine jurisdiction over establishments in the economic zone.

"It [new CDO] only serves to clarify the jurisdictional dispute that existed between the DENR and the SBMA," Corcoran said.

There are around 320 locators in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone who have secured their ECCs from the SBMA and not the DENR.

Ocean Adventure vice president for corporate affairs Gregorio Magdaraog said Ocean Adventure was merely made a "sample" of the DENR's assertion of authority over the issuance of ECCs to establishments in Subic Bay.

Officials of the EMB, protected areas and wildlife bureau and other environment officers visited the park Tuesday to serve the order.

He said the environment officers had a "nice" discussion with the park's officials and even proposed the development of Ocean Adventure's rescue facility as a DENR center.

"We have submitted everything to the EMB Region 3. It's now up to them. We are just waiting for the ECC," Magdaraog said.

Ocean Adventure has applied for two ECCs: One for the marine park and another for the beachfront hotel adjacent to the park.

Magdaraog said the new CDO had "absolutely no relation" to the death of Hook, a 13-year-old false killer whale who died of probable gastrointestinal illness last month.

Magdaraog, a former assistant secretary of the DENR, said even the officials were apologetic even before because SBMA establishments like Ocean Adventure were caught in the middle of the DENR-SBMA row.

In a letter to Defensor in September last year, Ocean Adventure officials said they were ready to comply with the requirements of the DENR in securing the ECC.

In its response, the DENR assured that "no further administrative sanctions shall be taken against SBMEI while the DENR and SBMA explore an agreeable solution."

"We are a world-class facility and we welcome the DENR and even our detractors to check us anytime," Corcoran said.

Deputy cop chief draws jail term for boss' slay

BACOLOD CITY—A deputy police station chief in Himamaylan City has been sentenced to a maximum of 13 years imprisonment for killing his superior officer outside their police station in 2000.

But the court found SPO3 Henry Alojado Ferrer guilty of homicide and not murder for shooting to death Senior Insp. Reynaldo Larroza Ganadillo.

Regional Trial Court Judge Henry Arles noted the absence of treachery and premeditation in reducing the charges from murder to homicide.

The judge also took into consideration Ferrer's surrender when he sentenced the accused to 8 to 13 years imprisonment.

Ferrer was also ordered to pay the heirs of Ganadillo P650,000 in damages, P1.2 million in loss of retirement benefits, P711,780.80, in loss of lump sum benefits and P50,000 in actual death benefits.

Court records showed that Ferrer shot twice Ganadillo, 53, in the evening of May 24, 2000 outside the Himamaylan police station. He then surrendered to the desk officer.

Ferrer claimed that the shooting was an act of self-defense, saying he was forced to shoot Ganadillo when the police chief grabbed his collar and pulled out a gun when he declined to talk to the victim.

But the court did not give weight to his alibi because it was "riddled with improbability and inconsistencies to be accorded full faith and credit."

The court noted that during cross examination, Ferrer admitted that Ganadillo was not able to hold on to his collar as he was about three meters away from him.

PO3 Herminio Guinpalaran, who was the first to approach the victim, also testified that the gun of the police chief was in safety mode, which means that the victim did not pull his gun.

Another policeman, PO2 Ron Somondong, told the court that Ferrer got angry at Ganadillo for embarrassing him in front of his subordinates when the victim scolded him and overturned his order to conduct a mobile patrol.

Somondong also noted that Ferrer was drunk at that time.

In his decision, Judge Arles said the act of Ganadillo in trying to collar Ferrer did not make a case of real aggression but a mere threat and intimidation that could have been handled without using a gun.

The court noted there was intent to kill because Ferrer shot Ganadillo twice in the chest. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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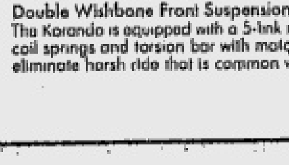
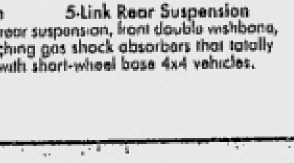


Double Wishbone Front Suspension



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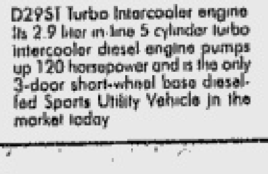

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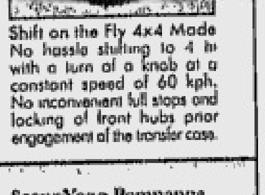

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Police urge gov't to identify owners of marijuana fields in Cordillera

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The government must exert all efforts to identify the owners of lands where marijuana is grown so they can be properly charged in court, police officials here said.

Senior Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, Benguet police director, said the proper identification of landowners is the best way to stop the cultivation of marijuana in the Cordillera.

In raids conducted on marijuana plantations in the region, policemen destroy plants and seedlings but rarely arrest cultivators or owners of the farms.

Bumanglag said the police and the military have been unrelenting in their operations to wipe out marijuana plantations in the region, especially during summer when the plants are ready for harvest.

No identities

"But these areas are sometimes replanted because we do not know who own them," Bumanglag told reporters here on Wednesday.

"We need to know the owners. We do not even know if the lands planted with marijuana are private or publicly owned," he said.

Bumanglag said the remaining marijuana plantations in the region are located in "very remote areas accessible only by foot."

He said growers are emboldened to cultivate marijuana because of the region's mountainous terrain and absence of roads that would make it difficult for law enforcers to detect if farms are planted with the illegal weed.

Ideal location

He said most of these farms are found in the boundaries of Mt. Province, Ifugao, Benguet and the Ilocos.

In Benguet, Bumanglag said marijuana farms still exist in remote villages in Bakun, Kapangan and Kibungan towns.

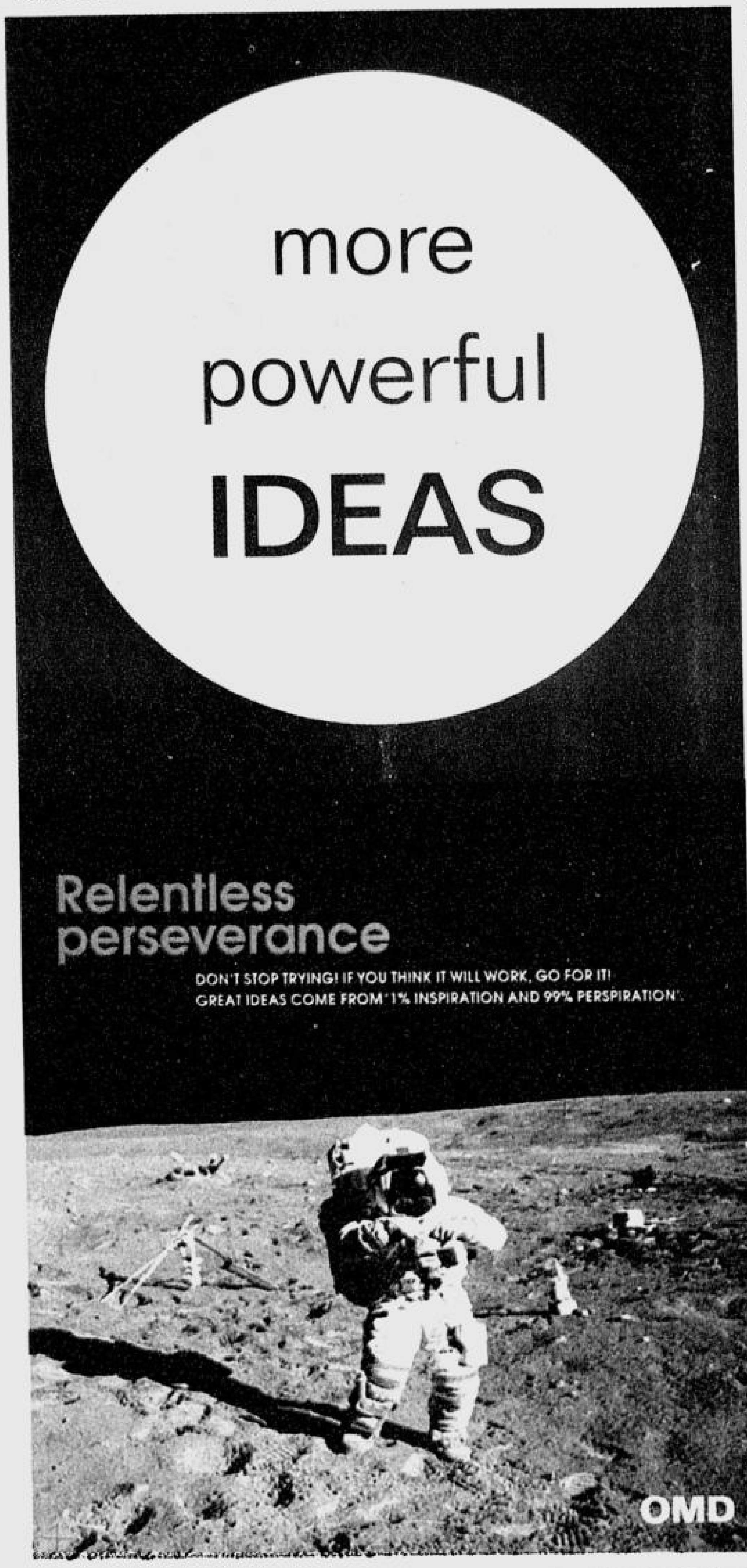
Supt. Alexander Pumecha, information officer of the Cordillera police, said the Department of Land Reform must find time to go to these remote areas to identify the plantations' owners.

Pumecha said the Department of Agriculture must also conduct feasibility studies in these areas to determine the best alternative crops for farmers.

He said farmers would avoid planting marijuana once cash crops suited for their areas are identified.

But the best remedy, Pumecha said, is for the government to build roads in these areas so farmers can transport their agricultural products.

"These farm-to-market roads will discourage farmers from cultivating marijuana," he said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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OMD

Mindoro legislator faces suspension over graft case

VALENCIA

CITY OF CALAPAN—Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday informed Oriental Mindoro Rep. Rodolfo Valencia (first district) of the Ombudsman's order to suspend him from the House of Representatives.

"Speaker De Venecia met yesterday with the committee on rules and Congress' legal office is validating with the Supreme Court if the Speaker has the authority to decide or it should be the plenary in session," Valencia told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He said the motion for reconsideration on whether to implement the suspension or not was still with the SC, adding that there was no decision yet.

"I will fully agree with whatever the Supreme Court will say. There is nothing wrong if there is a suspension. I'll be glad to follow because no one is above the law," said Valencia.

But he added that he was very confident that the case would be dismissed as it had been dismissed by the Ombudsman in 1995.

The case that involves Valencia (then Oriental Mindoro governor) and his then provincial administrator (now congressman in the second district) Alfonso Umali Jr. is about a loan agreement entered into by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) with engineer Alfredo Atienza regarding the repair of his roro vessel MV Ace.

City councilor Joey Leynes, then a member of the SP, was earlier suspended from April to July, with Oriental Mindoro Gov. Arnan Panaligan implementing the order from Sandiganbayan because Leynes is a local official.

Others who were involved in the case were not suspended because they were not public officials.

"Speaker De Venecia (in April) gave (Sandiganbayan's suspension order to the two congressmen) to the committee on ethics but it said it cannot implement because of the separation of powers," Leynes said.

He said the P2.5-million loan in 1994 was claimed to be illegal by former Gov. Benjamin "Chippy" Espiritu, who lost to Valencia in 1992.

Asked by the INQUIRER whether the loan had been paid in full, Leynes said not to his knowledge.

Valencia, in his two-page statement, explained that the approval of the loan for the operation and maintenance of his roro was "necessary" to assist in disaster recovery efforts.

He added that Mindoro in 1994 was under the state of calamity after it was heavily damaged by four strong typhoons in December 1993.

He added his political opponents are behind the case. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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ROUNDUP

'Drug Queen' busted

CANDELARIA, Quezon—A woman drug pusher listed as No. 1 in the local police drug watchlist was arrested along with his younger brother in a buy-bust operation in their safehouse on Wednesday. Police identified the suspects as Delia Macatangay Alinea, 42, a known "drug queen" in the locality, and his brother Medel, 33. Operatives from the local police station and the 415th Provincial Police Mobile Group arrested the suspects in their hideout located along Nadres Street in this town with the help of a civilian asset who acted as drug buyer. The two were arrested while in possession of four marked P50 bills. Police said the suspects were also behind the drug distribution network in nearby localities.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

1 dead in road mishap

CALAUAG, Quezon—One person died and seven others were seriously injured in a vehicular accident in Barangay Binutas along Maharlika Highway last Sunday. In a police report, the victim was identified as Rufino L. Abonita, 50, an employee of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings & Loan Association Inc. and a resident of Nabua, Camarines Sur. Investigation said the victim was driving his jeep going to Bicol when, upon reaching a sharp curve, it collided with an Isuzu Highlander coming from the opposite direction and being driven by Jesse B. Uy, resident of Dasmariñas, Cavite. Abonita died on the spot. The seven other passengers of the ill-fated vehicles were rushed to the Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Hospital for emergency treatment.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Town hall power supply cut

MALILIPOT, Albay—The Albay Electric Cooperative (Aleco) has cut off the supply of electric power to the municipal building of this town, which houses various offices—including the mayor's office, after the local government unit failed to settle its electric bills for the past three months. The town owes Aleco a total of P160,431.93 for the months of May, June and July this year.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

UP Kalilayan

UP KALILAYAN, a University of the Philippines-based socio-cultural organization of students from the provinces of Quezon and Aurora, is celebrating its 30th founding anniversary this month. Among the activities lined up for the month-long celebration are a food festival featuring Quezon delicacies, bloodletting, a sports festival dubbed Kalibugbugan, free rides for the UP community, a photo exhibit and a *pancit habhab* (Lucban noodle) eating contest. A grand alumni homecoming will be held on Aug. 20, 6 p.m., at the Greenhouse Grill on Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City. Inquiries on the homecoming and other activities may be coursed through upkalilayan_30@yahoo.com.

SILVER SWAN SUSTANSYARAP TIPID RECIPES below P100*

No.1

CHICKEN POCHERO RICE TOPPINGS

1/4 kg	chicken, adobo cut
1/4 kg	squash
1 pc	saba banana, boiled and cut into cubes
1/8 kg	baguio beans
1 bundle	pechay
4 cups	water
2 Tbsp	cooking oil
1 Tbsp	achuete seeds
2 cloves	garlic, mashed
1 pc	small red onion, minced
3/4 cup	chicken broth
1 Tbsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**
1 Tbsp	**Silver Swan patis seasoning**
1/4 cup	garbanzos
1/4 cup	tomato sauce
4 cups	cooked rice
Eggplant Relish Mixture:	
2 pcs	eggplant, broiled, pulp scraped off skin
1 clove	garlic, minced
1/4 tsp	ground pepper
2 tsp	**Silver Swan cane vinegar**
1 tsp	sugar
a pinch of salt	

Procedure:

1. Boil chicken and squash (with peel) in two cups water. Scoop out squash when tender. Mash and set aside.
2. Cook bananas till tender in chicken pot.. Add baguio beans and pechay. Cook 2 minutes more. Remove vegetables and chicken from the stock and set aside.
3. Saute achuete in low heat until color is rendered off in oil. Discard seeds.
4. Stir fry garlic, onion and chicken in the achuete oil for 2 minutes. Add 3/4 cup chicken broth. Season with **Silver Swan soy sauce** and **Silver Swan patis seasoning.** Add the mashed squash and blend well. Continue to simmer as garbanzos and tomato sauce are added.
7. Place the chicken on a platter with the pechay, baguio beans and saba arranged on one side. Serve with rice and the accompanying eggplant relish. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
20	47	31	30	21	50	28	32	44	91

A serving meets 90% of the recommended nutrient intake for vitamin C and is packed with protein, niacin and vitamin A. It is also a fair source of calcium, phosphorus and riboflavin.

* based on July 1 2005 prices

LUMPIANG SOTANGHON

2 Tbsp	cooking oil
2 cloves	garlic, mashed
1 pc	small red onion, chopped
100 g	ground pork
1 pc	small camote, diced
1 pc	small carrot, cut into strips
1 pc	tokwa, fried and cut into strips
1 bundle	pechay, chopped
100 g	sotanghon, soaked in water until limp
2 Tbsp	spring onions, chopped
3 Tbsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**
1 tsp	sugar
8 pcs	lumpia wrapper
1 cup	cooking oil for deep frying
Dipping Sauce:	
1/4 cup	**Silver Swan cane vinegar**
1/2 tsp	ground pepper
1 tsp	sugar
1 clove	garlic, minced

Procedure:

1. Heat 2 Tbsp cooking oil. Sauté garlic, onion and ground pork.
2. Add carrot, tokwa and camote. Stir fry for 30 seconds over high heat.
3. Add pechay, sotanghon and spring onion. Heat until sotanghon is tender.
4. Add **Silver Swan soy sauce** and sugar. Mix well until ingredients are well coated. Cool.
5. Put 1/4 cup of the filling in the center of a lumpia wrapper. Roll up the wrapper firmly, folding in the sides as you roll. Repeat with the others.
6. Heat 1 cup oil in a pan and deep fry the rolls until golden brown. Drain on paper towels.
7. Serve with the dipping sauce.. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Fat	CHO	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
15	15	25	12	19	17	11	32	6	8	11	40

A serving provides more than one third of the recommended nutrient intake for vitamin C. It is also a fair source of vitamin A.

Watch out! NEW RECIPES August 12

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INQBOX Question of the Week

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Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Settlers accuse NHA head of conflict of interest

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Families that will be displaced by the NorthRail project in Bulacan have accused National Housing Authority General Manager Federico Laxa of conflict of interest, saying the official owns a company involved in the relocation of 1,911 families in Marilao town.

Officials of the Ugnayan ng mga Maralitang Komunidad sa Lalawigan ng Bulakan (Umalab) also sought the ouster of Laxa and the suspension of relocation projects in Bulacan that were tainted with alleged anomalies.

They said Laxa has been using his cousin, actor Tony Ferrer, and former Mayor Azor Sitchon of San Simon, Pampanga, as dummies in the company.

The NorthRail project would rehabilitate the old Philippine National Railway line from Metro Manila to the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga. It is designed to be the first modern railway system in the country.

The Umalab leaders said they were invited to a meeting in May in Valenzuela City where Laxa, Ferrer and Sitchon allegedly "instructed" them to endorse the nine-hectare Lambakin Resettlement in Marilao.

The land in Lambakin was bought and is being developed by the D' Grand Builders and Contractors Inc., the firm that Laxa, Ferrer and Sitchon purportedly own and are supporting.

Laxa reaction

But Laxa, in a telephone interview, said the allegations were "unfounded" and "unfair to us."

He said neither he nor his cousin Ferrer [Antonio Laxa in real life] owns the company. Their names do not appear in company records with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SEC documents showed it was registered only last May 13 with a paid-up capital of P3.125 million, making it unqualified to develop large settlements, Umalab said.

According to Laxa, it is Sitchon who is working as a consultant for the firm.

Sitchon, in a separate interview, said he is the firm's "unofficial adviser." The owners, the members of the Dalisay family of Apalit, are his family's friends, he said.

Speaking for his wife Teodora, the treasurer of the company, Domingo Dalisay denied fronting for the three men.

Umalab, citing documents, said the company bought the land at P450 per square meter but sold it to the NHA at P600 per square meter. It said the firm earned at least P18 million from the deal.

Denial

Laxa said he and Ferrer "don't have any business with [Sitchon] or with D' Grand Builders."

Laxa, a former Macabebe mayor and whose family is also into real estate projects, said he had divested himself of his stakes in those before assuming the NHA post.

Umalab leaders, in a four-page statement, said Laxa, Ferrer and Sitchon "told us that every leader who shall change camp and support [the Lambakin project] will be made 'ghost employees' for six months in a municipal government in Pampanga and that each of us shall get P10,000 monthly."

The meeting came after five Umalab chapters in Marilao endorsed the 12-hectare Loma de Gato Resettlement, which they initiated to develop as early as April, according to their leader, Renato Cuiz.

He said lots in Loma de Gato are 40 square meters each and the houses cost less than P100,000 each. Cuiz said they preferred that site because it is safe and accessible.

FRESH

JESS YUSON/PDI PHOTO

A fisherman shows off a catch of prawns at the inauguration of the Bataan Fish Port that was attended by Sen. Manuel Villar.

3 Cebu City BIR execs held for extortion

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Three Bureau of Internal Revenue officials based in this city were charged with graft at the Cebu City prosecutors office, a day after two of them were caught allegedly extorting money from a resort owner in Panglao, Bohol.

Charges of violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act were lawyer Bonifacio Ybañez, the chief of the BIR Revenue Region 13 Special Investigation Division, and two of his subordinates, Edgar Palgan and Francis Mercado.

Ybañez and Palgan were arrested by a police team led by Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Bureau (CIIB) chief Paul Labra II at 4 p.m. on Tuesday at a food outlet inside the Ayala Center Cebu.

The two were arrested after they received P30,000 in marked money from complainant Leonila Montero, a resort owner and a municipal councilor of Panglao.

Mercado, while not around during the entrapment operation, was included in the complaint because he was allegedly with Palgan when they tried to extort money from Montero in May.

Montero said Palgan contacted her last May and informed her that she had a tax obligation of P200,000 for the first quarter of this year for the operation of her beach front establishment, the Alona Tropical Beach Resort in Barangay Tawala, Panglao.

Montero said she was surprised because she was religiously paying her taxes to the BIR district office in Tagbilaran City.

Montero said Palgan and Mercado first met her inside a mall in Tagbilaran City sometime in May and explained to her that her tax obligation could be settled if she would pay to them 50 percent of the amount.

Sometime last month, Montero said she again met Mercado, this time at the SM City mall in Cebu City where he allegedly gave to her his bank account number where she was supposed to deposit the P100,000. Montero instead went to the BIR regional office in Cebu to see Ybañez who also negotiated to her the "settlement" of her tax obligation. She said she was initially asked to cough up P60,000, which was later brought down to P30,000.

Montero said it was then that she decided to report the matter to the Panglao police that in turn contacted the Cebu City police for the entrapment operation.

During the operation, Montero gave the envelope containing the supposed P30,000 to the two BIR men. Most of the bills, however, were just scraps of papers and only P1,500 in P500 bills placed at the top of the bundle were real money.

Lawyer Noel Archival, the legal counsel of the accused BIR officials, claimed it was Montero who arranged the meeting and offered the money but his clients refused the offer.

The police, however, said the two BIR men were positive of ultraviolet powder used to mark the bills, which confirmed that they received the money.

Davao to computerize to fight graft

DAVAO CITY—City Hall has embarked on a computerization program that aims to get rid of under-the-table arrangements, which recently caused the relief of a number of department heads and hundreds of rank and file employees.

City Administrator Wendel Avisado said the computerization program will "cut off requests" from both the transacting public and the transaction-facilitators.

Avisado identified the local civil registrar office, city treasurer's office, city assessor's, business bureau and general services as among the offices which are vulnerable to corruption.

Reports on irregularities in these offices prompted Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to initiate a massive revamp on July 29.

About 200 rank and file employees, including department heads, were relieved from their posts.

Duterte said the revamp will continue as City Hall undergoes a cleansing process.

The computerization program is one of the policy reforms, which the city government will take after the ongoing total revamp.

Avisado said the city assessors' office, for instance, is now moving toward a computerized system of operations. It started off with the cancellation of all previously issued tax declarations.

Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Kin of comfort women find employment in abusers' homeland

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CANDABA, Pampanga—Maria Quilantang, who was barely 14 in 1944, suffered sexual abuses in the hands of Japanese soldiers. In 2003, Quilantang's daughter, Rosa, left for Japan to work in a factory there.

This irony—of Maria still being outraged by Japan's refusal to apologize to her and 92 other Filipino "comfort women" and of Rosa leaving home to seek greener pastures in the country of her mother's abusers—comes stark as the world approaches the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II on Aug. 15.

"I can't blame [Rosa], she has a family to raise. She did not do that to spite me," Quilantang said of her daughter's decision to work in Japan.

Like when her husband Ruperto left for Japan in the late 1980s to work as a carpenter, Quilantang, although resistant to the plan, summoned all the understanding in her heart to accept Rosa's bid to lift her family out of poverty.

Paradox

The paradox has multiplied twice over in Quilantang's home village of Mapanique here.

The farming village has seen more than 700 of its residents leaving to work in Japan in recent years. The village was bombed and burned, and almost all of its men and boys killed, by the Japanese Imperial Army's 2nd Tank Division on Nov. 23, 1944.

Many residents in the village now work in Japan's construction projects and in tofu and electronics factories. A few others work in bars as singers and janitors.

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COMFORT WOMEN during one of their rallies to press for compensation and an apology from the Japanese government.

REUTERS

"What can we do? Farming does not bring in much money. Life is hard in the Philippines," said Crescencia Gulapa of why several of her children, nephews and nieces work in Japan.

Indignation

Still, Quilantang, Gulapa and 65 other surviving comfort women in the village, have not let go of their indignation.

Since breaking their silence in 1996 (26 had died in their ranks since), these women, who call their group the Malaya Lola (Free Grandmothers), continue the quest for justice despite old age and scant funds.

On Aug. 2, their leaders Isabelita Vinuya, 71, and Ceferina Turla, 73, flew to Japan to attend the Global Day for Comfort Women.

Invited by the Santama Peace Cycle Network, they were expected in Mirata and Hiroshima cities to speak on the mass rape of Mapanique women and the mass killing of men in the village, then a suspected guerrilla lair.

Peace activists belonging to Santama, which kicked off the 60-day campaign on June 15, have blocked attempts to erase from history books the plight of comfort women. Sexual slavery, they said, was a policy of the Japanese military during the war.

Picket

On Aug. 10, members of the Malaya Lola would picket the Japanese Embassy to demand apology and reparation, both of which they have been seeking for years from the Japanese government.

In June last year, they filed a petition with the Philippine Supreme Court to ask the government to declare the abuses as crimes against humanity.

They had memorialized the village's wartime experience through a tombstone at the Mapanique Elementary School grounds, the same site where their fathers, uncles and brothers were killed. The women and girls were made to watch their execution before they were taken to the Ilusorio mansion, a kilometer south of the village.

Their stories have been documented in the book "The Women of Mapanique [Untold Crimes of War]" by the Asian Center for Women's Human Rights.

> 'The paradox has multiplied twice over in Quilantang's home village of Mapanique. . .'

Kamikaze

The Malaya Lola also demanded the demolition of a bronze statue of a Kamikaze pilot erected at the former Japanese east airfield in Barangay Cacutud, Mabalacat, Pampanga in October last year.

Built by the local tourism office, it was unveiled on the seventh anniversary of Clark and Mabalacat as "Cities of World Peace." These areas and nearby Bamban, Tarlac, were part of Japan's base in 1944.

It was in Cacutud, according to accounts, that Vice Admiral Takijuro Ohnishi first organized on Oct. 19, 1944 the *tokko-tai* or bomb-carrying pilots that crashed their planes into American battle ships.

"Why should they hail as heroes those who were part of the war that made us suffer a great deal?" Quilantang asked.

The controversial statue, said Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales, did not mean to glorify the Kamikazes or hurt the feelings of comfort women.

"It simply reminds us, like our Japanese visitors wished, that there never will be another call for Japanese parents to send their children to war in foreign lands to follow in the footsteps of the Kamikaze pilots," Morales said.

Wounds

"The war left wounds, whether you're a Filipino, Japanese or American. And we should continue to be sensitive of how people regard the war," said Rhonie de la Cruz, Bamban Historical Society founder.

Except in Mapanique, there seemed to be no strong anti-Japanese sentiment elsewhere in Central Luzon, the base of the anti-Japanese Army Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap) during the war.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Study says veggie trade, mining top job givers

BAGUIO CITY—Benguet's mining and vegetable industries would remain the most important job generators in the province, a study conducted by an environment advocate here said.

In her study, Baboo Mondofiedo, an environmentalist and one of the founders of the Cordillera News Agency, however, noted that all industry stakeholders must also consider the environmental impact of development on these sectors.

Mondoñedo presented the study ["Case study on vegetable and mining industries in Benguet: Its impact on poverty, environment and globalization"] to local officials last week in preparation for the national report on the government's medium-term development goals.

She said agriculture comprised more than 50 percent of the total employment in the Cordillera. Vegetable farming employs 140,000 people, most of them in Benguet.

But she noted that despite the employment figure, the vegetable industry continues to encounter problems such as the high cost of production, unstable market, presence of layers of middlemen, declining soil productivity, lack of infrastructure, stiff global competition and the lack of support from the government.

During a recent regional development council meeting, Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Dalog said the growth of agriculture, which employs half of Cordillera residents, "has been rather slow."

Dalog, the RDC chair, said when the Cordillera Administrative Region was created in 1987, agriculture had a gross output of P2.6 billion. However, it grossed only P3.5 billion in 2003.

These figures suggested that the Cordillera, a major source of Metro Manila's salad vegetables, contributed the least to national agricultural growth, Dalog said.

Mondofiedo's study said there is a prevailing negative public perception on large-scale mining and entry of foreign investors.

She said other problems encountered by the mining industry are "the degradation of the environment, lack of social responsibility, absence of discernable positive effect on local development and the loopholes on the free, prior and inform consent (FPIC) process."

The study promoted small-scale mining but recommended its regulation.

Some local officials saw the potential of small-scale mining as an alternative industry and a family enterprise.

"Before the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was signed [in the 1990s], Itogon was thinking of turning to vegetable growing if [large-scale mining stops]. But with the problem on importation and GATT, there is no way that our town can go into vegetable farming. We found an alternative; we found that small-scale mining will go a long way," said Mayor Mario Godio of Itogon, Benguet. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Text leads to arrest of fishing violators

SARANGANI—The power of text helped in the arrest of fishermen operating illegally in a restricted area and with the use of a banned kind of fish net.

Policemen apprehended MB Beverly 8, which is owned by a certain Romeo Laguna of Bula Village in nearby General Santos City, for using "Likos" or "Tapsay" and for fishing within the 15-kilometer municipal waters of Glan town on Wednesday dawn.

On Tuesday afternoon, a vigilant fisherman overheard a conversation regarding the plan of MB Beverly 8 crew members to fish that night in an area restricted to commercial fishers.

The fisherman wasted no time. He sent an SMS message to a friend at the provincial capitol. After receiving the text message, the capitol employee passed it on to Gov. Miguel Dominguez and police provincial director, Senior Supt. Efren Valeriano.

Around 7:39 p.m., the informant again sent another SMS message informing his contact at the provincial government that the fishing vessel was on its way to the area.

Valeriano immediately ordered the police chief of Glan to coordinate with the Maritime Police in apprehending the illegal fishers. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Dy to testify on La Vista payoff, says Pimentel

From page A1

tation to Dy, who is in California, by fax and courier the other day, after the entire Senate minority asked Villar to summon Dy.

Lawyer Frank Chavez, who went to Los Angeles reportedly to get Dy's deposition, said Dy was committed to testify about the dinner at Ms Arroyo's home.

"According to him, it's a call of conscience. At the same time he wants the people to know the truth. He's not siding with either the administration or opposition. He just wants to tell everything that he knows," Chavez said in several radio interviews yesterday.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero left for the United States on Wednesday night to confer with Dy, who lost to former radio broadcaster Ma. Gracia Cielo Padaca in his reelection bid last year, opposition sources said yesterday.

Brothers

The brothers of the former Isabela governor have left for the United States this week to talk to their brother and verify reports that he would testify before the Senate committees investigating jueteng operations in the country.

Isabela Rep. Faustino Dy III, Cauayan City Mayor Caesar Dy and Alicia Mayor Napoleon Dy went to Los Angeles, California, to hear from their brother the "real truth" behind reports of his supposed testimony against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Dy's brothers said the former governor never mentioned anything about his plan to appear before the Senate investigation on jueteng.

"I just landed at the LA (Los Angeles) airport. [I] will talk to him to know the real truth," Faustino III said in a text message sent to the INQUIRER on Thursday morning.

Another brother, former Isabela Gov. Benjamin Dy, said he had yet to hear directly from his brother about the January 2004 meeting. Benjamin said he would go to the United States on Saturday to talk to his brother.

Palace unafraid

But Malacañang is not afraid of what Dy has to say.

"We do not know what his testimony is and we have no control over what a person will do. But what is important is that what he says should only be the truth," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing in Malacañang.

Bunye reiterated that the President had never been involved in any bribery attempt.

Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser on political affairs, said the "President still considers Dy an ally as much as she considers the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) an ally."

Dy is the national chair of NPC, a political party founded by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., chair of San Miguel Corp. NPC is part of the ruling coalition in the House of Representatives.

FAUSTINO DY JR.

Trouble for GMA

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago doubted Dy would testify against Ms Arroyo but conceded his testimony would cause trouble to the beleaguered President.

She said if Dy testified, the credibility of the first eyewitness to the alleged bribery—former Malacañang employee Michaelangelo Zuce—would be "significantly increased."

"(A)ssuming for the sake of argument that Governor Dy corroborated the testimony of Zuce, then in effect we have precipitated another political crisis of credibility," she said.

"In that case, President Arroyo will no longer be able to simply stonewall or refuse to comment on the subject because the rule in law is that a denial will not prevail but instead will be defeated, if there is sufficient or substantial evidence from the prosecution," Santiago said.

"A denial is no longer enough to defend (her position)."

Dy, a member of the powerful political clan in Isabela, is deemed a material witness on the alleged distribution of bribe money to election regional directors and provincial supervisors at a dinner in the residence of Ms Arroyo in La Vista, a posh subdivision in Quezon City, in January last year.

Secret dinner

Zuce, a former employee at the office of Jose Ma. Rufino, presidential political liaison officer, testified in the Senate Wednesday that Ms Arroyo had wanted a "secret dinner" with Commission on Elections officials in her La Vista residence.

He said that at that dinner last year, Lilia "Baby" Pineda, wife of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, distributed envelopes containing P30,000 to the guests in the presence of Ms Arroyo.

Zuce said Dy was present during the dinner and was in Baby Pineda's car on the way to Ms Arroyo's house.

Lilia leads convoy

Zuce said Baby Pineda, who was with Dy and Francisco Pobe, provincial election supervisor for Lanao del Norte, met his group which included 27 regional directors and supervisors at a McDonald's branch before proceeding to La Vista. He said Pineda led the convoy to the President's house.

Zuce said the dinner was part of a "special project" to enlist the support of Comelec officials for Ms Arroyo's candidacy that was handled by Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and funded by Rufino's office.

Pimentel said Dy would have to talk about the meeting because Zuce had identified him as present at the dinner.

Handwritten statement

Pimentel said he saw a draft statement supposedly handwritten by Dy. But the senator said he would not disclose the contents of the statement because he wanted to avoid preempting Dy or to make it appear as if he were exerting pressure on the former governor.

He refused to say who showed him Dy's statement. But he said Dy was expected to talk about the La Vista dinner and "other things."

"We can anticipate that he would have to talk about that (dinner) because Zuce talked about him. But he has other things to say, related to the activities of Gloria," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said Dy would be an "important witness" because of his presence in the event and because of his stature as a political ally of the President and as a former governor.

"Considering his post as a former governor present at that meeting—if you look at the hierarchy at that time—he was next to Gloria (in rank) and (Election Commissioner Virgilio) Garcillano," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said that because of Dy's clout, Malacañang could not accuse him of being a witness for sale.

"They would think of other ways to discredit him, maybe call him an ingrate," the senator said.

Corroborated

Santiago said corroborated testimony was so much stronger than an individual testimony.

"However, the corroboration must come from a person who is himself credible. So we will try and see whether this prediction by the opposition will materialize and whether those who are partisans in favor of the President will be able to cast doubt on the credibility of the witness," she said.

But Santiago said Dy was no longer needed in the Senate because there was a contrary witness against Zuce.

She said Cherry Abapo, former San Fernando, Masbate mayor, was a credible witness against Zuce because he testified that he paid Zuce P1.5 million to fix his electoral protest. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza in Manila and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Where's Garci? Opposition offers P1M

From page A1

ing him [to the] people—regardless of what he's saying, will be in the best interest of this country at this time."

Air, sea and land

The warrant for Garcillano's arrest, which was signed by Speaker Jose de Venecia at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, was "hand-carried" by members of the staff of House Sergeant-at-arms Bayani Favic to the offices of the heads of law enforcement agencies at 4 p.m. yesterday, House Deputy Secretary General Emmanuel Albano said.

Albano said he expected an air, sea and land search to be conducted by the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation, the three major services of the Armed Forces, and the Philippine Coast Guard.

Cayetano said Sen. Panfilo Lacson was also trying to get in touch with his former contacts in the international police community to help in the search.

Garcillano is alleged to have conspired with Ms Arroyo to rig the May 2004 presidential election.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER last month, Garcillano admitted that he spoke with Ms Arroyo at the height of the canvassing of the votes. He said he had also talked with other politicians from both sides of the political divide.

The President has apologized for the "lapse in judgment," but said she did nothing illegal.

The House of Representatives issued an arrest order for Garcillano on Wednesday, after he ignored three summonses to appear before an inquiry into the poll fraud allegations.

The chamber is looking into wiretapped recordings of about 15 phone calls allegedly between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano discussing ways to ensure her poll victory, as well as restraining a potential witness to fraud and the political loyalties of military generals.

The allegations are part of an impeachment complaint filed in the House against Ms Arroyo.

The sooner, the better

Cayetano said opposition lawmakers were not looking for Garcillano to get "additional" evidence but to make sure that the political crisis would not worsen.

But he said the opposition would accept any offer of more evidence from Garcillano.

"The sooner we end this political crisis, the better for the country. The problem is, Malacañang and some administration congressmen are ... throwing a monkey wrench into the process," Cayetano said.

"We are appealing to everyone. Our country can't take six more months embroiled in a political crisis," he said.

No need for him

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang had evidence to defend Ms Arroyo in her impeachment case and did not need Garcillano's testimony.

Bunye was responding to the question of whether the surfacing of Garcillano would help strengthen Ms Arroyo's defense.

"With or without the testimony of Garcillano, we can be supported by other evidence that the President won ... the 2004 election," Bunye told reporters.

"The President has not committed any election offense," he said.

Asked to comment on the claim of a former assistant to ex-presidential aide Jose Ma. Rufino that Garcillano was being held by Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Bunye said he would rather let Ebdane make the response.

Hold-departure order

Asked whether the Palace would help the House find Garcillano, Bunye said the Bureau of Immigration (BI) had already issued a hold-departure order on the man.

Garcillano was put on the BI watch list yesterday, in compliance with a directive from Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said in a statement that this was enough to prevent Garcillano from leaving the country pending the Department of Justice's issuance of a hold-departure order on him.

As for canceling Garcillano's passport, Bunye said it was up to the Department of Foreign Affairs to act on the matter.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, who was at the launch of Veritas' new programs in Makati City, told reporters that the DFA would "follow the law" regarding Garcillano's passport.

Help from people

The PNP is ready to arrest Garcillano if only it knows where he is.

"We don't have any information [on his location] yet," PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said after a press briefing.

"We need the help of our people to provide us information," Bataoil said.

Former opposition Sen. Francisco Tatad earlier said Garcillano had flown to Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia escorted by Ebdane—a claim the latter had denied.

But in the July phone interview with the INQUIRER, Garcillano said he was still in the country.

Late last month, he was rumored to have flown to Singapore and then to London. But immigration officials have denied this.

If it is true that Garcillano is in the United Kingdom or Singapore, then he is beyond the reach of the government because the Philippines had no extradition treaty with these countries, Gonzalez said.

But the militant overseas Filipino workers group Migrante International said it would help locate Garcillano.

Migrante chair Connie Bragas-Regalado called on Filipinos abroad to help in the search by employing civilian arrest and turning him over to the nearest Philippine diplomatic office, or reporting his location to Philippine authorities.

No extradition treaties

The NBI has yet to receive a copy of the arrest warrant for Garcillano.

NBI spokesperson Auralyn Pascual said the bureau would "conduct the search as soon as we get [the warrant] along with directives from the higher officials."

Pascual said at a press conference that the NBI would look for Garcillano "anywhere in the country."

"As for reports that Garcillano has left the country for Singapore or London, we would like to stress that we have no extradition treaties with those countries," she said.

She also clarified that in the absence of criminal charges against Garcillano, the warrant issued against him would only force him to attend the House inquiry.

NBI agents had earlier tried to serve a subpoena on Garcillano at his condominium unit in Gotesco Tower on Concepcion Street, Ermita, Manila, and his residence at 2006 Casimiro Tamparong St., RER Subdivision, Cagayan de Oro.

But he was not at these places, and the agents left the papers with the "village guards," Pascual had said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Leila B. Salaverria, Armand N. Nocum, Margaux C. Ortiz, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Jerome Aning*

Zuce is opposition 'star witness'

From page A1

Cebu Rep. Clavel A. Martinez, one of the impeachment prosecutors, said Zuce would provide a direct link between Ms Arroyo and election officials who allegedly rigged last year's polls to favor her.

Martinez said Zuce, a nephew of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, would be an important witness because of his explosive testimony and documents.

Strong documents

"Definitely he will be one of the witnesses because he's quite detailed and he has documents to back him up, documents that are very strong. One wonders how he could keep track and keep all these documents," Clavel said in an interview at the Citizens for Truth forum at the Ateneo de Manila University.

The amended impeachment complaint filed by 41 House members on July 25 accuses Ms Arroyo of cheating and bribing her way to victory in the 2004 presidential election, benefiting from gambling payoffs, hiding real estate in the United States and complicity in the murder of activists.

Zuce met yesterday with opposition lawmakers at the Makati Sports Club where his lawyer Liwayway Vinzons-Chato formally turned over to them his affidavit.

"I hope that this statement of my client would be the key to open the impeachment trial," Chato said.

Sorry for Erap

Martinez, who was also a prosecutor in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada, said Zuce's account not only confirmed the charges in the impeachment complaint but also authenticated the taped conversations between Garcillano and Ms Arroyo in which the President allegedly ordered the rigging of the polls.

Zuce claimed that he was with Garcillano while his uncle was talking with the President on the phone. He said Garcillano told him after a conversation where Garcillano said "Yes ma'am, yes ma'am" that it was the President on the other end of the line.

Zuce's nickname, Louie, also cropped up in several conversations allegedly between Garcillano and Ms Arroyo during the canvassing of votes.

Zuce also claimed Ms Arroyo was aware that Lilia Pineda, wife of alleged "jueteng" lord Bong Pineda, had given P30,000 each to election officers who attended a meeting at the President's house in La Vista, a swanky subdivision in Quezon City.

"The evidence against GMA is a lot, lot stronger than what we had against Erap before. If I were to compare the evidence we used against him, I feel sorry for Erap," said Martinez.

Sure of impeachment

She noted that Zuce even had the signatures of election registrars, who were present at the meetings, and even their telephone numbers.

"I'm 101 percent sure she will be impeached. That's why the administration is doing everything to ... diffuse the attention of the people," she said.

Martinez belied allegations by administration allies that the opposition had paid Zuce to come out against the President. "If he were a paid witness, Malacañang is in a better financial position to pay him off than any of us in the opposition," she said.

Martinez expressed confidence that the undecided members of the House would vote according to their conscience once they see the evidence against the President.

She said the prosecution was preparing a "short but very substantial" presentation of evidence for the hearings of the House committee of justice and the trial itself in the Senate. The committee is scheduled to begin hearings within 10 days on the merits of the impeachment complaint.

Time line

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, the impeachment team's spokesperson, said Zuce's testimony moved the opposition's "time line" of the alleged plot by the administration to cheat in the last elections.

"We thought that it (was planned only) months before the elections. But when he came out, we moved our time line because this apparently started two years (before the elections)," he said.

Cayetano said this led the impeachment team to again review the information that it received before but disregarded because it thought that these were irrelevant to the allegations against the President.

Before Zuce formally turned over his 11-page affidavit, he met for about half an hour with pro-impeachment lawmakers and confirmed the corroborating testimony of five other possible impeachment witnesses.

"We look at (his) time line and (that of the) five witnesses and they matched, about the (President's alleged) phone calls (to Garcillano), etc.," Cayetano said.

Other possible witnesses

Zuce suggested during the meeting other possible witnesses who might be able to help in the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio, head of the impeachment team's secretariat, said that some of the election officers who were allegedly bribed might be willing to testify.

Cayetano said that many persons were coming forward to testify, including people in administration who knew about the use of government funds in the elections.

"These key witnesses will put things in order. We will see the logical antecedents or how this whole conspiracy came about. It was a Mafia-type of conspiracy and not just ordinary cheating," he said.

Lie detector test

Reacting to the challenge of Zuce that election officers, who attended the meetings at La Vista, undergo polygraph tests, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said he was leaving to the agency's regional and provincial officials the choice of undergoing the tests.

"It's up to them if they would like to take the test. But right now, I'm not in a position to speak for them. It's their individual decisions," Abalos told reporters.

At a hearing before the Senate the other day, Zuce challenged the President and election regional directors and provincial supervisors to undergo polygraph tests to ascertain who among them were telling the truth.

Abalos earlier produced declarations of denials from several former and current local election officials. Some of the election officers said they would file libel charges against Zuce and another Senate hearing witness, Sandra Cam, for implicating them in the bribery.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Abalos and other Comelec commissioners vouched for the integrity and independence of the local election officers.

'Manna from heaven'

But San Juan Mayor JV Estrada, a son of detained former President Joseph Estrada, described Zuce as manna from heaven ("hulog ng langit").

He said at a forum in Malabon City that Zuce single-handedly corroborated the wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano. *With a report from Nancy Carvajal*

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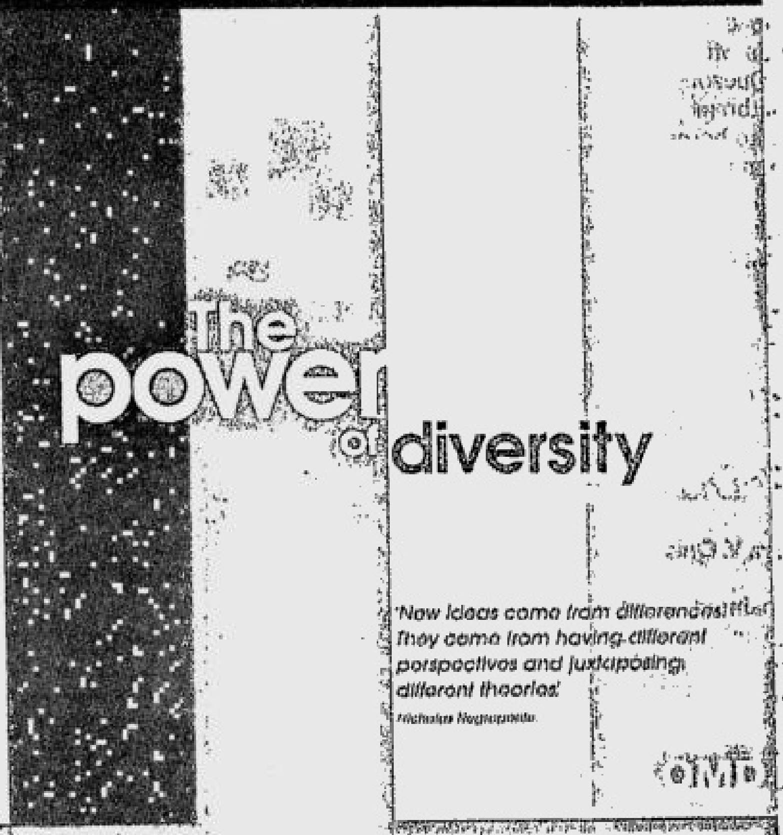
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8 kids die of dengue in QC barangay

By DJ Yap

FOR THE time being, tricycle driver Lito Rivero is not allowing his little girls Lovely Rose, 8, and Mary Rose, 11, to go to school. He doesn't want to lose another daughter.

Rivero lost nine-year-old Litlyn Rose to dengue last Monday in what an official of Barangay Pagasa, Quezon City, described as an outbreak of the dreaded mosquito-borne illness in the community.

Rivero's death brought to eight the dengue fatalities in the barangay, where 67 cases had been reported since June.

The Quezon City health office has confirmed 38 of the cases.

Another child who showed symptoms of dengue reportedly died yesterday, but health officials could not immediately confirm the incident.

Of the fatalities, all were children between 3 and 13 years old.

Except for Rivero who lived at the back of SM North Edsa, all of the dengue victims lived in Sitio San Roque, a slum community on Agham Road, said local health officer John Hendrix Hizon.

Three of them, including Rivero, were pupils of Barangay Pagasa Elementary School, leading parents to suspect it could be hosting mosquito breeding grounds.

Barangay administrator Ricky Bajarias said the incidence of dengue noticeably rose in June, when the rainy season began.

The situation was nothing short of a dengue outbreak, Bajarias said.

City and barangay officials yesterday responded by fumigating the school and San Roque.

School principal Lourdes Abalos, however, downplayed the possibility that the schoolchildren contracted the disease in the school.

She noted that more than half of the school's 3,000 population lived in San Roque, where most of the dengue cases were reported. Abalos added that some of the victims were diagnosed with dengue even before the school opening.

Parents' fears, however, were not easily placated. Some residents accused the school officials of ordering pupils to clean the premises before classes, a charge Abalos denied.

As for Rivero, he is not taking any chances. His little girls will stay home – and in sight – until he is assured they are safe from the killer disease.

In Mandaluyong City, meanwhile, rehabilitation of water connections finally started yesterday in a depressed community in Barangay Harapin ang Bukas in Mandaluyong City, which was ravaged by a gastroenteritis outbreak over the weekend.

The health department said at least 61 residents suffered from acute gastroenteritis, with a woman dying after a few days of showing symptoms of the illness.

The city government said the outbreak was caused by contaminated water passing through broken hoses. *With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Dasma 'maids' birthday gift for boss

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THEY painted a picture of a woman who only had words that hurt. But the woman did not blink, and said she still had a happy birthday yesterday.

Sisters Maria Salve Lorina Serrado, 37 and Maria Isabel Lorecca Hernandez, 25, went public for the first time yesterday, to reveal alleged abuses they received from former Guimaras Governor and Rep. Emily Lopez, ambassador-designate to Italy who is awaiting confirmation from the Commission on Appointments.

"She would curse at us almost everyday. Even for minor mistakes, she would scold us," said Hernandez, a legal management graduate from the Ateneo de Naga University. "The reason why we came out is to block her appointment," said Serrado, an industrial engineering graduate.

But Lopez, who turned 59 yesterday, said she was no longer surprised by the allegations, as she had expected efforts to destroy her in the midst of her confirmation as an envoy. "These came from people who have some personal and vindictive reasons to affect my appointment ," said Lopez in a phone interview yesterday.

The sisters, with another "trainee" Rosario Quiambao, 23, went to the Makati Police District headquarters last week, to report the maltreatment they allegedly received from Lopez. The sisters said they were enticed by an offer to work as household staff for Lopez' Dasmariñas Village, Makati home in return for guaranteed jobs in Italy.

But Lopez said the women came to her house looking for work. She, however, admitted speaking to the women in a "high-pitched" voice "when I got nervous."

City Hall begins cutting trees at Manila's Arroceros Park

TREES felled inside the Arroceros Forest Park lie on the ground with the chainsaw used in cutting them down. ERIK ARAZAS

By Tina G. Santos

WORKERS yesterday started balling and cutting trees in Manila's controversial Arroceros Park, much to the dismay of environment advocates.

The workers, believed to be under instructions from City Hall, initially prevented the environmentalists from entering the contested property. They said there was an order from "higher-ups" to keep visitors away from the area while the construction of the two-story teachers' building was ongoing.

Upon seeing the environmentalists and the media, one of the workers signaled one of his colleagues to stop the cutting of trees. Two trees were already down when the INQUIRER came upon the activity. When asked why they halted their work despite their claim that they had a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the workers said they were just taking a break. Winner Foundation, park caretakers, said they were able to save a century-old narra tree from going down. The INQUIRER tried to get a comment from the workers' foreman, but the latter hurriedly left the site. National Museum representatives did not arrive in time to supervise the tree cutting, despite an agreement that a monitoring team from the museum would supervise the activity, Winner said.

Artifacts had been found in the area which has been declared an archaeological site.

It was gathered that Corazon Davis, regional executive director of the DENR, earlier granted the Manila Division of City Schools a permit to cut, ball and prune trees in the area.

Regina Paterno, Winner president, added that the city government should stop any activity in the park since they still have a pending case in court. Sought for comment, city legal officer Melchor Monsod, said that the city was "conscious" of environmental laws. Besides, Winner had no legal basis for claiming the property, he added.

METROBRIEFS

Six arrested for killing of Chinoy

POLICE have arrested six alleged members of a kidnap-for-ransom group linked to the killing of Chinese-Filipino businessman Shir Mon Choa and the wounding of his brother Shir Chuang Choa in Valenzuela City last month. The national police public information office said Shir was slain in a foiled kidnapping by members of the Leyte-Samar Kidnap-For-Ransom and Robbery Group. The group is also believed to be behind a string of kidnapping and robbery cases, including the bloody robbery at the Metro Rail Transit GMA Station in 2003. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Help a text away for abuse victims

REPORTING of domestic violence and child abuse cases in Manila is now as simple as pressing keys on a cellular phone. The Manila government yesterday launched a new, and hopefully, effective method to quickly respond to abuse cases, particularly those involving children. Incidents requiring assistance by the city's Department of Social Welfare can be reported through 700MDSW Text Hotline, by typing MDSW <space> report, then send to 700MDSW or 7006379. *Tina G. Santos*

1st natural gas-fed bus to roll soon

By Abigail L. Ho

JUMPSTARTING the country's efforts to ease dependence on imported oil, the Philippine National Oil Co. has agreed to provide 200 normal cubic meters of compressed natural gas (CNG) at P15 a liter to a bus that will be plying the Fort Bonifacio-Pacita Complex route starting this month.

PNOC president and chief executive Eduardo Mañalac said the CNG, equivalent to 200 liters of diesel each week this month, will enable the HM Transport Inc. CNG-fed bus to start operating even while awaiting the completion of Shell Philippines' mother-daughter refueling station this month.

The commissioning of the mother station in Tabangao, Batangas and the "daughter" station along the South Luzon Expressway in Biñan, Laguna within the month would mark the start of the full commercial run of HM Transport's 80 CNG buses, he said.

The 80 China-made buses were acquired under the government's Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT).

The NGVPPT aims to promote the use of CNG in the public transport sector by providing incentives to industry participants, and offering the gas at very low prices.

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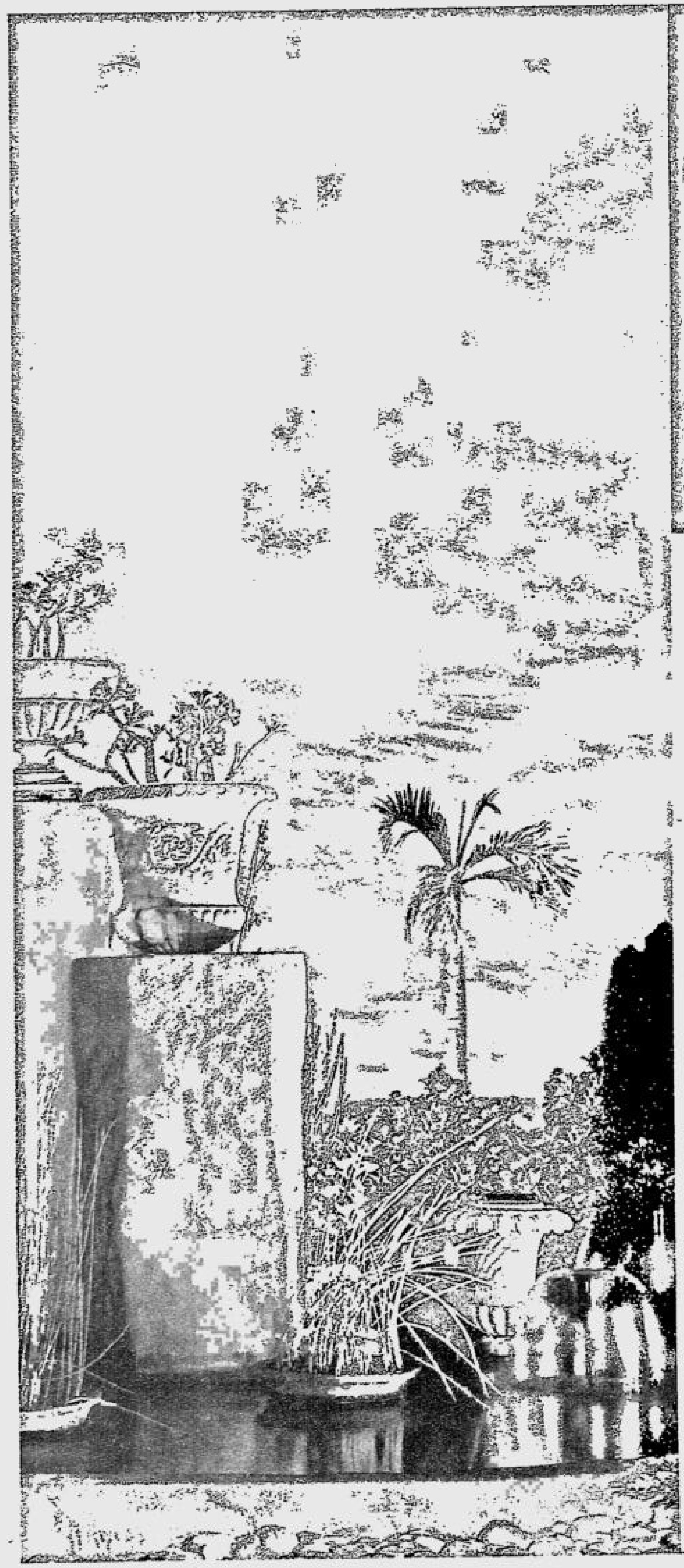

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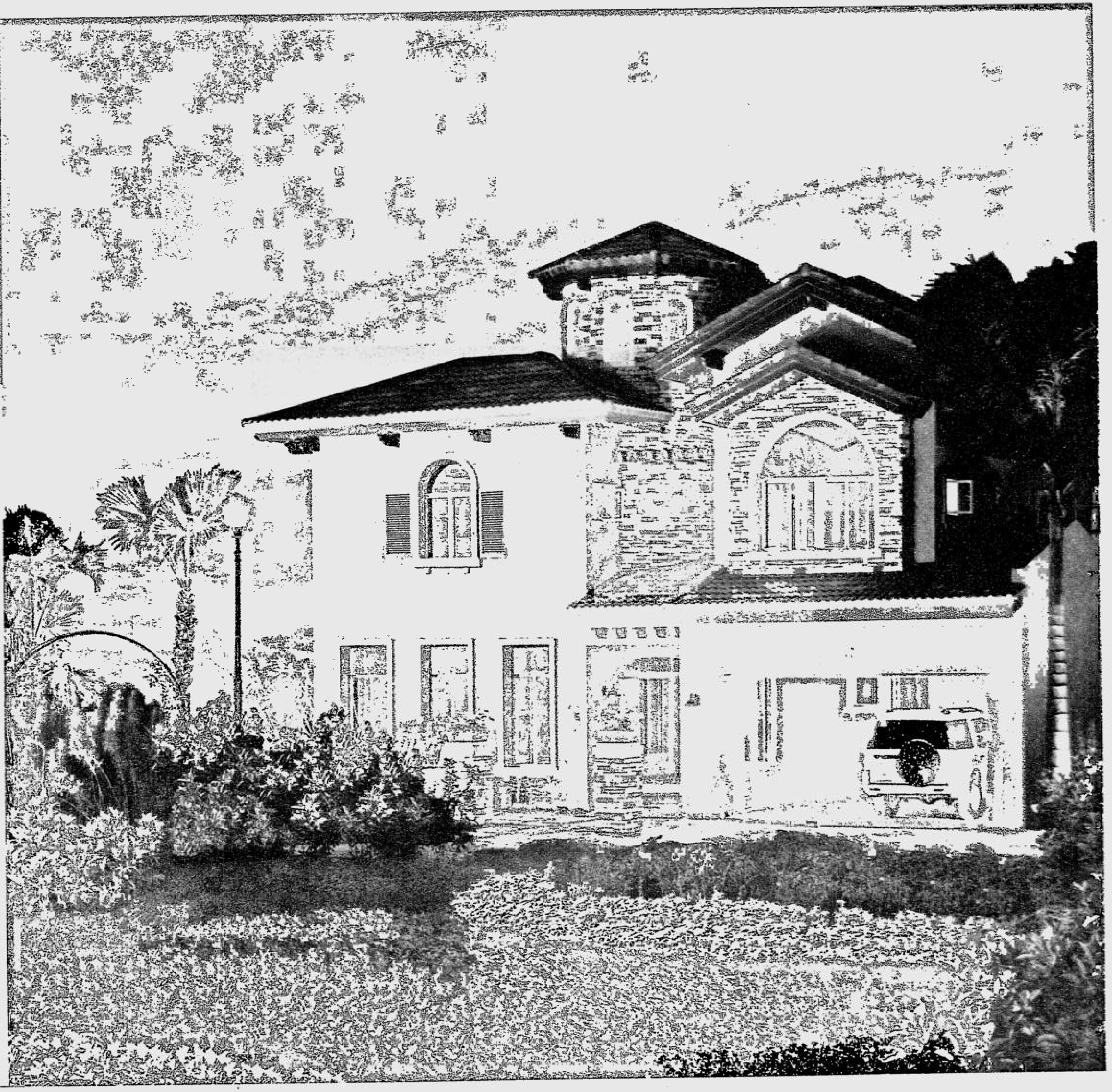

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

ROBERT Labagala of the UE Warriors barrels into LA Tenorio of the Ateneo Eagles late in the third quarter. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Eagles halt Warriors; Maroons rip Falcons

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ATENEO Eagles got the tough test they expected and showed enough composure down the stretch to ambush the streaking University of the East Warriors, 65-63, yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Ateneo starters immediately provided the scoring punch, led by forward JC Intal, and the Eagles went on to lead by as much as 16 points, 58-42, in the fourth quarter before the Warriors rallied to make the game close in the end.

The Eagles, who nipped the University of the Philippines Maroons five days ago, joined the Warriors at second place with 4-2 records.

Coach Norman Black welcomed the win as a sign that the Eagles' early struggles could be behind them.

"It's a big win, a good week for us," said Black. "We were able to match the energy level of UE.

EAGLES/ A26

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
10 a.m.—Far Eastern vs Univ. of Phils. (Jrs)
12 p.m.—National U vs La Salle (Jrs)
2 p.m.—National U vs La Salle (Srs)
4 p.m.—Far Easten vs Univ. of Phils. (Srs)

Pagdanganan, POC at odds over SEA Games cage venue

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BASKETBALL'S status in the Southeast Asian Games may be in limbo, yet officials are bickering where to hold the sport closest to the Filipinos' heart.

A Philippine Olympic Committee official yesterday questioned the decision of Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee chair Obet Pagdanganan to transfer the basketball venue from the Araneta Coliseum to Yñares Sports Center in Antipolo City.

Pagdanganan's decision to seal a deal with Antipolo's local government, according to the POC official, was done without consulting the Olympic body, which is the authority as far as SEAG venues are concerned.

But Pagdanganan denied not having consulted with the POC which he said is part of the Philsoc. POC president Peping Cojuangco is also the vice president of the Philsoc and chair of the Philsoc ways and means committee.

The POC official said Antipolo doesn't have nearby hotels to accommodate the participating delegations and lacks a practice venue.

PAGDANGANAN/ A26

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Lions eye Stags as 2nd victims/A26

■ Mirza, Sugiyama post upsets/A29

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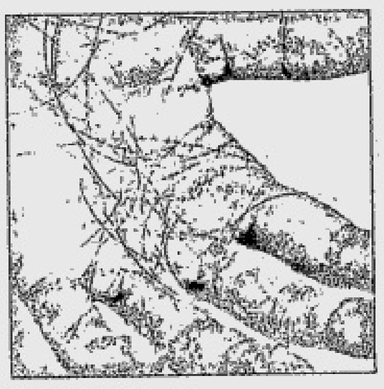
Receding hairline



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Iloilo Warriors stun Tribu Sugbu cagers at home

ILOILO CITY—The Iloilo Warriors pulled a big reversal Wednesday night by dealing defending champion Tribu Sugbu its second straight setback, 89-84, in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the packed University of San Agustin gym here.

Ex-PBA player Chris Cantonjos struck hard in the homestretch, scoring Iloilo's last seven points to give the team of IBL president Robert Uy and strong supporter Gov. Niel Tupas its third victory in 10 matches.

After trading baskets with Tribu's Neil Raneses for the last deadlock at 84, Cantonjos completed a three-point play to make it 87-84, time down to 52.6 seconds.

Tribu got another chance when Francis Sanz muffed his free throws, but the Cebuanos failed to convert in the ensuing play. Lowell Briones kicked the ball in frustration and was slapped a technical foul.

Iloilo's Eduardo Allado missed the charity with 8.4 ticks left, but Cantonjos grabbed the rebound to seal his team's victory.

Tribu's record dropped to 7-4 in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Meanwhile, Hapee/Dewfoam-backed Mantawi opens its northern swing today when it faces Texas Instruments/Beneco-supported Baguio at 6 p.m. at the St. Louis University gym.

The scores:

ILOILO 89—Sanz 18, Cantonjos 14, Balgos 11, Allado 10, Senlerez 9, Poral 9, Arceno 8, Leonida 5, Pisuena 5, Sina-on 0, Manuel 0, Sencil 0, Penesa 0.

TRIBU 84—Raneses 16, Guerrero 15, Caingiet 12, Briones 11, Bucao 8, Almacin 8, Pening 4, Ursal 4, Ferraren 2, Mercado 2, Luga 1, Cabanes 0, Mangubat 0, Paglinawan 0, Ignacio 0.

Quarters: 23-20, 50-48, 72-64, 89-84

Inspired Lions eye Stags as 2nd victims

NEW San Beda coach Koy Banal could not have asked for a better start.

Few expected Banal to make a quick impact. Yet he did just that when the Lions stunned the defending champions Philippine Christian U Dolphins in his NCAA basketball tournament debut last Monday.

"We're emphasizing a positive attitude," said Banal as the revitalized Lions gun for their second straight win against the San Sebastian Stags at 4 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Dolphins, meanwhile, will try to avoid another upset when they clash against the St. Benilde Blazers at 2 p.m.

Lions forward Jerome Paterno finally played up to his potential after a mediocre first-round performance.

The 6-foot-4 veteran delivered 27 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks, while teammate Yousif Aljamal added 19 markers for the Lions.

Banal has clearly energized the team but would rather not look too far ahead.

"We're not thinking of the Final Four right now," said Banal. "We're just taking it one day at a time—practice per practice, game per game."

The Lions may have the momentum, yet coach Turo Valenzona believes his Stags have a strong fighting chance.

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	8	0
PCU	6	2
Mapua	5	3
SSC	4	4
Benilde	3	5
Perpetual	3	5
San Beda	2	6
JRU	1	7

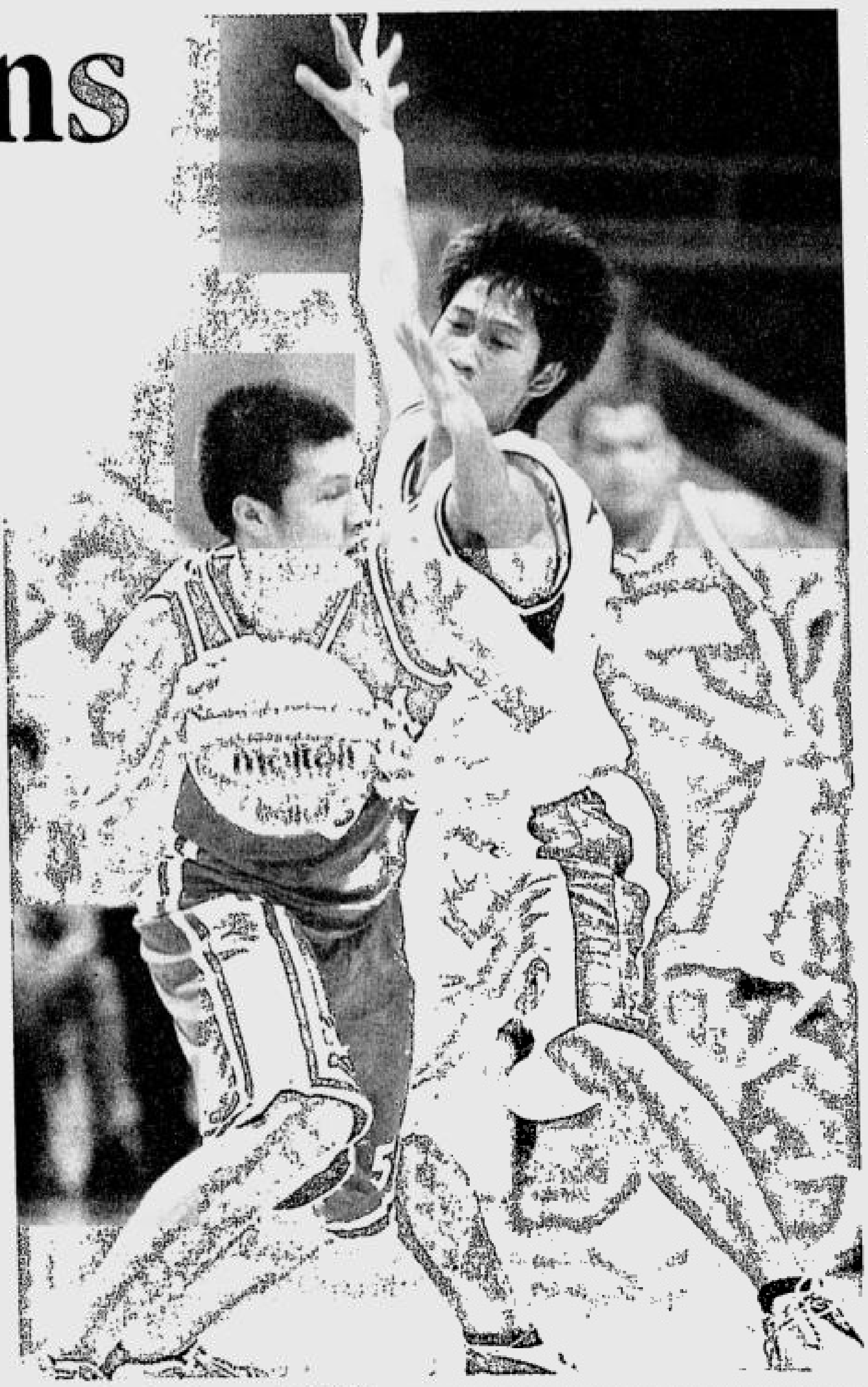
GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
11:30 a.m.—St. Benilde vs PCU (Jrs)
2 p.m.—St. Benilde vs PCU (Srs)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs SSC (Srs)
6 p.m.—San Beda vs SSC (Jrs)

"The composure of the team is now there," said Valenzona, whose Stags are gunning for an elimination round sweep over the Lions. "We're having less errors, less turnovers. Our defense is improving."

Leo Najorda expectedly led the Stags in their 63-49 triumph over the Blazers but they also got ample contributions from Red Vicente and Jim Viray.

The Dolphins absorbed back-to-back losses after an impressive 6-0 record.

In their 78-72 stunner against the Lions, the Dolphins' first five started out flat. Gabby Espinas tried to rally his squad in the closing minutes but his late heroics could not lift PCU. *Jasmine W. Payo*



PCU'S Lizstian Amparado (right) harasses San Beda's Marco Arbole during their game last week. The rejuvenated Lions pulled a King-sized upset. RYAN LIM

PNP to hold first Subic marathon

THE VERY first national Subic Marathon fires off on Oct. 23 inside the Subic Bay Freeport with both competitive and fun runners expected to join the cause-oriented event.

The 3K, 5K, 10K and 16K races will serve as a launching event for a nationwide awareness campaign of the Philippine National Police's vision of a "God-centered, service-oriented and family-based PNP and the Philippines," according to race organizer Supt. Samson Tucay, officer-in-charge of the PNP Values and Leadership School.

Former PNP chief Gen. Edgardo Aglipay started the program now being pursued by current PNP head Gen. Arturo Lomibao.

"Having witnessed how lives of policemen were changed by this program in Subic, we saw the need to pass on this vision to others through this national Subic marathon. By participating in the race, the public can be part of this sustained values-formation program not just for PNP but for the country as well," said Tucay.

Supporting the event are the PNP leadership, host venue SBMA though tourism manager Ken Peralta, Powerbar, PMA Class '78, the CORPS Movement Foundation, Runnex, which is providing technical support, as well as pledges of support from FedEx, and various private, government, and religious sectors.

Tucay hopes to make the race an annual event and develop it into an international event by adding a full marathon distance race. This year, he is looking at 3,000 to 5,000 participants.

Registration is already going on with forms available at the PNP values and leadership school in Subic, SBMA Tourism department, PNP Service Store at Camp Crame, and the Philippine Christian bookstore in Olongapo. For inquiries, call 047-2524154, SBMA Tourism, 047-2237620, PCBS, 7263084, CORPS. and 7241569, PNP SSS.

Pagdanganan, POC . . .

From page A25

But Pagdanganan, a former tourism secretary, said the lack of hotels and training sites can be solved even as he maintained that the country won't pay for using the Yñares Sports Complex as compared to the high rent asked by the Big Dome.

"We are considering the cost and the marketing commitment that we have," said Pagdanganan, who has been criticized by certain sectors over the snail's pace of the Philsoc's preparations for the SEAG, which begins on Nov. 27.

In exchange for the free use of the Yñares gym, the Antipolo local government will collect entrance fees.

Pagdanganan stressed that he's not ruling out the Araneta Coliseum, especially for the gold medal game, which is expected to draw a large crowd. Still, he said, there are advertisements inside the Big Dome that are not sponsors of the SEA Games.

Although Yñares is a frequent venue for PBA games, it is not easily accessible as the Big Dome in Cubao, which was also the site of the 1991 SEAG basketball matches.

However, Filipinos remain unsure whether they can watch their favorite sport in the SEAG.

With the Fiba (international basketball federation) ban on the Philippines following the expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines from the POC, the country is effectively barred from hosting the sport in the SEAG this November.

Eagles halt Warriors; Maroons . . .

From page A25

We did a good job for the most part of the game."

The Maroons also improved to 4-2 by leaning on the consistent plays of rookie Axel Doruelo in hammering out a 77-61 triumph over the Adamson Falcons.

Doruelo, a transferee from San Sebastian-Cavite, paced the Maroons with 26 points and 13 rebounds.

The Diliman-based squad recovered from a two-game slide, yet coach Lito Vergara remained unhappy with the Maroons' form.

"We played well in the first half but we relaxed," said Vergara.

The Falcons skidded to their third straight loss for a 2-4 record.

Intal finished with 14 points and seven rebounds as the Eagles dictated the pace until the Warriors, starring rookie forward Mark Borboran, mounted a 15-2 rally to trim the deficit by three, 60-57, at the 4:17 mark.

But Doug Kramer's hook shot, followed by LA Tenorio's layup gave the Eagles' enough breathing room, 64-57.

The Warriors tried to stage one last run, but fell short in the closing seconds.

In junior play, the Eaglets shared the top spot with the Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws at 5-1 after overwhelming the Pages, 89-67. Jose Tuazon topcored with 20 points.

The Junior Fighting Maroons paved the way for the UP sweep with a 66-63 win over the Baby Falcons for a 4-2 card.

The varsity scores:

First Game

UP 77—Doruelo 26, David 19, Santos 10, Vainio 6, Ferrer 5, Quebral 2, Gavino 2, Cruz 2, Buyco 2, Agbayani 2, Bienvenida 1, Padolina 0, Epres 0.

ADAMSON 61—Bono 15, Cabahug 12, Canuday 8, Hate 7, Hugnatan 6, Tajonera 5, Capati 4, Tiongco 2, Poloyapoy 2, Panchelo 0, Yong 0, Gonzalgo 0, Basilio 0.

Quarters: 18-10, 39-31, 49-46, 77-61

Second Game

ATENEO 65—Intal 14, Kramer 10, Escalona 10, Membrere 8, Tenorio 8, Laterre 6, Aguilar 5, Arao 3, Reyes 1, Quimson 0, Del Rosario 0.

UE 63—Borboran 18, Labagala 10, Arellano 9, Raymundo 8, Saguindel 4, Espiritu 4, Custodio 4, Cañizares 4, Gregorio 2, Palaganas 0, Martinez 0, Lapeña 0.

Quarters: 16-11, 32-24, 55-42, 65-53

RP-PBA cager crushed, needs our help

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE FAMILY of my late *kumpadre*, German Macalanda, victim of operatives that wreaked havoc (not wreck as wrongly mentioned here on Wednesday) in Mandaluyong, has kept its composure and dignity.

The remains of Macalanda, 73, a born pacifist, have been quietly transferred to his hometown in Urbiztondo, Pangasinan, from their simple residence on Ilino Cruz Street, Mandaluyong. The place, where the old man sold tomatoes and *bagoong*, was raided commando-style on Thursday by members of the Mayor's Anti-Vice Squad that behaved like terrorists in swooping down on a nonexistent bookie joint.

Macalanda, who died of heart seizure in a vain try to ward off the attack, will be buried on Tuesday.

Mayor Boyet Gonzales has sent a tall wreath of red flowers to condole with the family.

Meanwhile, members of the Macalanda clan have vowed to file proper charges against the mayor's operatives, but only after the luckless patriarch has been interred.

We've vowed our support in pursuit of justice.

* * *

Elsewhere in Pangasinan, a member of the RP Youth basketball team that won the Asian title in 1974 and who went on to play for Concepcion Industries and U-Tex in the PBA, lies crushed, senseless and penniless after being hit by a reckless tricycle on the highway in Villasis.

His name: ROMUALDO B. CABADING

Cabading was employed as a driver with the Department of Agrarian Reform at the time of the accident.

His wife has written the INQUIRER to solicit help. She says Cabading, who was rendered comatose after being crushed by the speeding vehicle, can no longer hope to work again. She explains she has to seek aid from kind-hearted people as everything the former pro cager had invested through basketball has been sold to pay for his continued treatment.

We hereby reprint the urgent, neatly composed appeal in its original form:

* * *

Mga Ginagalang:

Ako po ay maybahay ni G. Romualdo B. Cabading Sr., ang dating player sa Philippine Basketball Association sa mga koponan ng Concepcion Industries at Universal Textile, at naging miyembro ng 1974 RP Youth team at 1975 RP team sa New Zealand Games. Nananawagan po ako sa inyo at sa kanyang mga dating kasamahan, tagahanga, kakilala at mga pamunuan at manlalaro ng PBA para sa kanyang pangangailangan at mahabang pagpapagamot.

Noon pong gabi ng Disyembre 16, 2004, habang tumatawid sa national highway sa Villasis, Pangasinan, pauwi sa aming bahay, si Romy po ay nabangga ng isang rumaragasang tricycle. "Hit and run" po. Tumilapon siya at, sa kasamaang palad, nabagok ang ulo niya sa semento at nabali po ang kanyang kanang braso, malapit sa kili-kili at ito'y naoperahan. Naging comatose siya ng ilang araw dahil napinsala po ang utak at nagkaroon po siya ng mild stroke.

Dahil po dito, kailangan po niya ang mga gamot at buwanang check-up upang manumbalik ang kanyang sariling kaisipan at kalusugan, subalit wala po kaming itutustos.

Isa lang po siyang hamak na driver ng Agrarian Reform sa Urdaneta City nuong maganap po ang aksidente. Ano man pong benefits niya ay nasagad na, at nautang na po namin sa pagpapaospital at sa mga gamot dahil isang buwan po siyang namalagi sa ospital.

Pati po ang lupang naipundar niya noong siya po ay naglalaro ay naibenta at naisanla po namin upang matustusan ang kanyang araw-araw na pagpapagamot.

Sana po ay mailapit ninyo kami ni Romy at ng aming mga anak sa mga matulungin at mababait na kababayan natin sa pamamagitan ng inyong pahayagan.

Hindi na po kasi maaring maghanapbuhay si Romy dahil sa nangyari sa kanya.

Maraming salamat po at patnubayan kayo ng Poong Maykapal.

FREDERLINDA H. CABADING

* * *

We first got wind of Cabading's sad fate through former Villasis Mayor Ramon Morden, currently in the United States.

We are volunteering a personal check in aid.

Those who will be kind enough to help may do so through the INQUIRER Sports Desk.

Contributions will be acknowledged and personally delivered to the family of Romy Cabading.

Councilor Nilo Costales of Villasis has offered to guide us to Cabading's residence in Barangay San Nicolas.

Thanks and God Bless.

SPORTSWATCH

Brod of ex-PBA commish passes away

MANUEL P. Bernardino, elder and only brother of former Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Jun Bernardino, passed away at 8 a.m. last Wednesday at the Capitol Medical Center due to cardiac arrest. He was 69. His remains lie at Arlington Chapels in Pasig City. He will be cremated at 8 a.m. on Sunday at Loyola Guadalupe. His ashes will then be transferred to the family crpyt in Magallanes Church at 1 p.m. on the same day. He is survived by his wife, children, brother Jun and sisters.

Mad Range Shootout all set at Megamall

THE FINALS of the Toby's & AND 1 Mad Range Shootout 2 fire off tomorrow with 40 or so amateur basketball players battling it out for the P100,000 grand prize at Atrium-A of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The NBA-style 3-point shootout also offers P20,000 and P10,000 for the second and third placers. The contest starts at 4 p.m. Prizes in kind from AND 1, Toby's Sports and Epson are also up for grabs. PBA stars and AND 1 endorsers such as Jimmy Alapag, Danny Siegle, Rodney Santos and Mike Cortez are expected to participate in an exhibition contest, according to the organizing Toby's Sports.

Pasay cockfest kicks off today

AT LEAST 90 fights are scheduled as the highly anticipated Barkadahan 3-Cock Derby gets going today at the fully air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. At stake in the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 is a cash pot of P300,000, plus special prizes for the fastest winners, as follows: first, P30,000; second, Pioneer DVD component; third, Panasonic refrigerator; fourth, 21-inch color TV; fifth, Nokia 2650, and sixth to 15th, one mountain bike each. Meanwhile, the venue's new hackfight format will start this Sunday featuring the 2-cock *ulutan* where the first 10 champions will receive P10,000 each; 11th to 20th champions; P8,000 and the rest, P7,000. Entry fee is P1,100. Cockers who will not see action in the 2-cock *ulutan* may instead join the regular hackfight that offers P1,000 per win. Slated every Wednesday is the Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan that offers P150,000 in cash prizes. Entry fee is P1,000.

Makati Coliseum 4-cocker lures 50 entries

MORE provincial cockers and breeders have confirmed participation in the 18th season of the Pahabol Sa Taglugon 4-Cock Derby slated Monday at Makati Coliseum. As of yesterday, 50 entries have reserved cockhouses, prompting host Bobit Pies to consider raising the total cash pot to P500,000. Submission of weights is on Sunday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 895-6475 or 896-3545. Meanwhile, promoter Richard Bates will stage the annual RL Bates 7-Stag Derby on Aug. 29 and 31 at the same venue. Screening and wing banding of stags under the personal supervision of Bates are ongoing. Interested parties may call 0916-3156991 (Bates), 046-4140750 or 723-8412 (Verna Bates). The stagfest stakes a total cash prize of P700,000 for an entry fee of P16,500.

Team Manila Scoop guest

OFFICIALS and members of Team Manila that will represent the country in the Big League (16-18) girls softball World Series and players entering the coming PBA draft will be the guests in today's SCOOP Sa Kamayan weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant on Padre Faura Street in Malate.

Rep. Miles Roces, Manila Little League Charter president, engineer Robert Evangelista, Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza and engineer Che Borromeo will be discussing Team Manila's chances in its World Series campaign on Aug. 15-20 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Also appearing are amateur standouts Mark Cardona, Fil-Am Anthony Washington, Michael Holper, Dennis Miranda, Cesar Catli, Alex Cabagnot and Don Yabut.

Laurente wins in Japan

FORMER Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation lightweight champion Dennis Laurente of the Johnny Elorde Stable knocked down Japanese No. 9 lightweight Yuki Yoshizawa in the opening round and went on to score a majority decision over 10 rounds at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo recently.

Laurente used a smashing left hook to send the hitherto unbeaten Yoshizawa on all fours in the first round and eventually won on the scorecards of two judges, 98-93, 96-95. The third judge saw the fight event at 96-96.

The southpaw Laurente, who was cheered from the gallery by OPBF champions Randy Suico and Rodel Mayol as well as ex-WBC flyweight boss Malcolm Tuñacao and Juanito Ablaca, improved to 23 wins (12 KOs), against 2 losses. He had 5 draws.

It was Yoshizawa's first loss in 13 fights.

Laurente lost his OPBF title last March by split decision to Japan's Chikashi Inada in a rematch of their previous outing won by Laurente via majority decision. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

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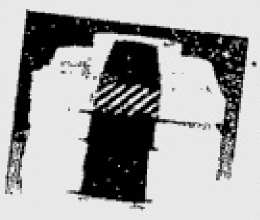
THE BIG TEN MEN'S WARDROBE MUST-HAVES

If you're like any other men born not meant to shop, clueless on what you need to buy, and often is confused with what you want as opposed to what you need, then this is for you! A system is non-existent to you, in shopping that is. You always end up hitting the mall more than you should and spending far beyond your budget. A multitude of styles are being offered everywhere and you cannot master a single clothing mantra. It is actually very simple and you do not need a team of fashion experts to tell you these things, you only need to zero in on the 10 essential pieces that are easy ways to punch up your wardrobe:



1. Dress Shirt - When choosing a dress shirt, the important consideration is your preference: the fabric, pattern, style, color, collar, and cuffs. Versatility is another factor; your dress shirts should complement most of your bottoms perfectly.

2. Casual Shirt - Relaxed corporate setting calls for a casual shirt, it is important to choose comfort when buying your casuals.

3. Knit Shirt - From jacket to your favorite jeans, sport them with a knit shirt, with a color of your choice. Make sure that your knits are made from soft, comfortable fabric with a superior finish.

4. Party Shirt - Forget the notion that men's fashion is stale or monotonous, it can go beyond just plain white shirts and simple ties. Colors segues effortlessly from office to party, with subtle details, you can always play up your overall outfit.

5. Black and White - When hesitation kicks in, stick with black and white, it's safe and it always gives an elegant simplicity.

6. Smart Stripes - Liven up your attire with stripes. Two words: Clever and Urbane.

7. Pants - Invest in pants that will weather all season, they should be comfortable, stylish, and extremely versatile.

8. Neckties - Get versatile pieces to match your classic shirts. Learn to mix and match, this is an opportunity to have the liberty to self-expression.

9. Suit - A man should own one set of suit, one set at the very least. In an era of relaxed attitude, suit still conveys achievement, distinction, and superiority. Suit can turn you from a regular guy into a more elegant man.

10. Accessories - Buy classic black genuine leathers to take you from the office to the weekend for greater versatility. Make sure these pieces withstand wear and tear.

When you're tired of your image, sometimes all it takes is investing in some key pieces. Remember your image is defined by what you wear; it's a reflection of who you are, so be proud of it and let it prove that you're a man of style and sophistication. You'll never go wrong with VAN HEUSEN, so go out there and grab what you need! Add that extra "oomph" to your outfit; take your style to the next level.

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Mickelson sets sights on International

CASTLE ROCK, Colorado—While Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh take a week off prior to the PGA Championship, Phil Mickelson will tune up for the final major of the year in The International. Mickelson, the fourth-ranked player in the world, is the star at the $5 million International that starts Thursday at Castle Pines Golf Club. Mickelson is second on career earnings with more than $1.4 million. The event uses a modified Stableford scoring system, awarding points for birdies and better and subtracting points for bogeys and worse. *AFP*

Sorenstam ready to play in Sweden

LODDEKOPINGE, Sweden—She is one of the greatest golfers in history, she has competed against men and now Annika Sorenstam is hosting her own event—the TPC hosted by Annika.

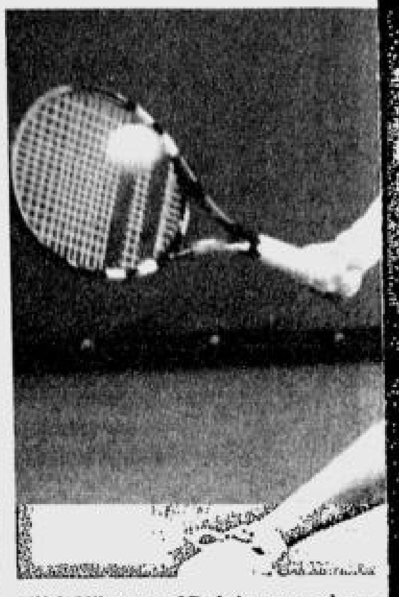
"I've been a pro for 12 years and to host my own tournament in Sweden is big," Sorenstam said. "Women's golf has always been well supported in Sweden and I always like to play before my home fans."

The euro500,000 ($617,000) event is being played at Barseback Golf and Country Club, considered Sweden's top course, and large galleries are expected this week. In 2003, more than 21,500 fans watched the final round of a Stockholm tournament—a single-day attendance record for women's golf in Sweden.

The 34-year-old Sorenstam has lived in the United States since 1990 and visits her native country only once or twice a year, but always for the annual Ladies European Tour (LET) event in Sweden. Since 1996, she has won LET tournaments five times in Sweden.

Sorenstam, who was part of Europe's Solheim Cup-winning team in 2003 here, says Barseback is decidedly different from other courses.

"The LPGA Tour courses are longer and many of the holes are similar. Barseback is a more varied course—woodlands, parklands and seaside," Sorenstam said. "The seaside holes, from 8 until 12, can decide this tournament." *AP*



KIM Clijsters of Belgium reaches o
the Acura Classic held at the La Co

Allen stay

SEATTLE, Washington—Ray Allen, one of the National Basketball Association's top free agents this season, is staying in Seattle, re-signing Wednesday with the SuperSonics.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but ESPN.com reported last month that it was a five-year contract worth $85 million

China taps ace shooters

BEIJING—Chinese officials have started trials for an elite security squad for the 2008 Olympics with 200 of the best shots from Beijing's police force being put through their paces on Wednesday, Xinhua news agency said.

"The one-month competition is being held to choose top sharpshooters for a special police force, which will be imminently established for the Beijing Olympics," Ma Qiang, an official from the Beijing public security bureau, was quoted as saying in a report on Xhinua's English website (www.chinaview.cn) Thursday.

Later rounds of competition would focus on officers' abilities to handle hostage situations and defuse bombs with only the 30 top finalists eligible to enter the elite Olympic detail. *Reuters*

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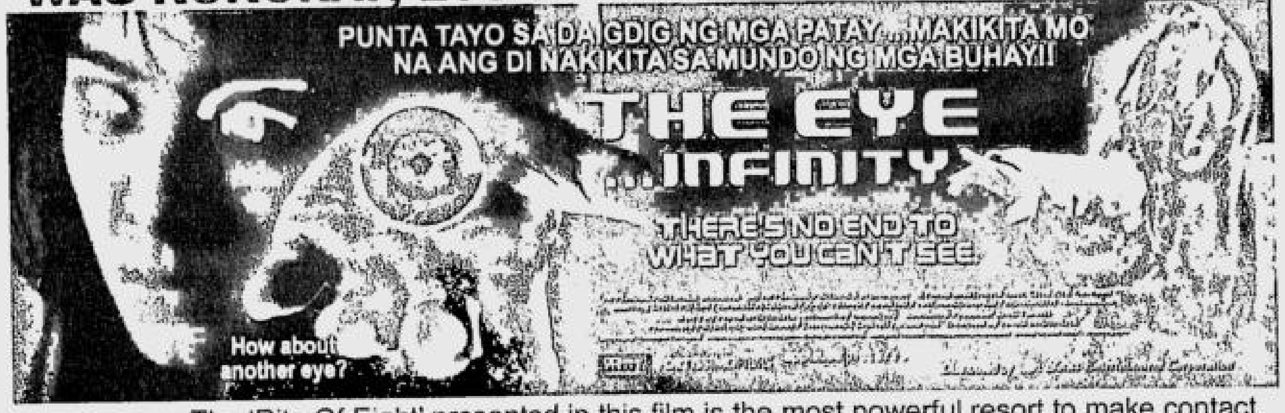

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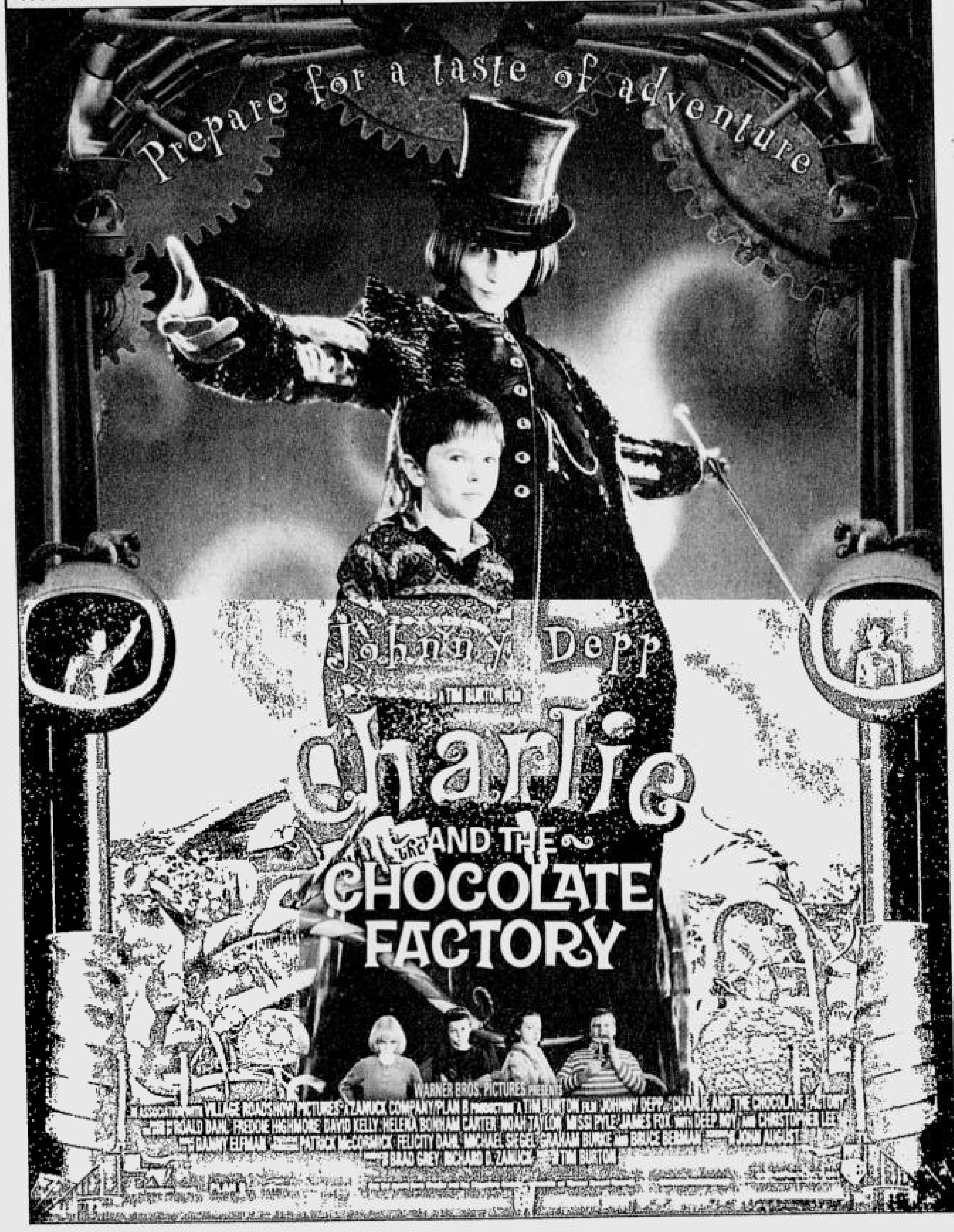

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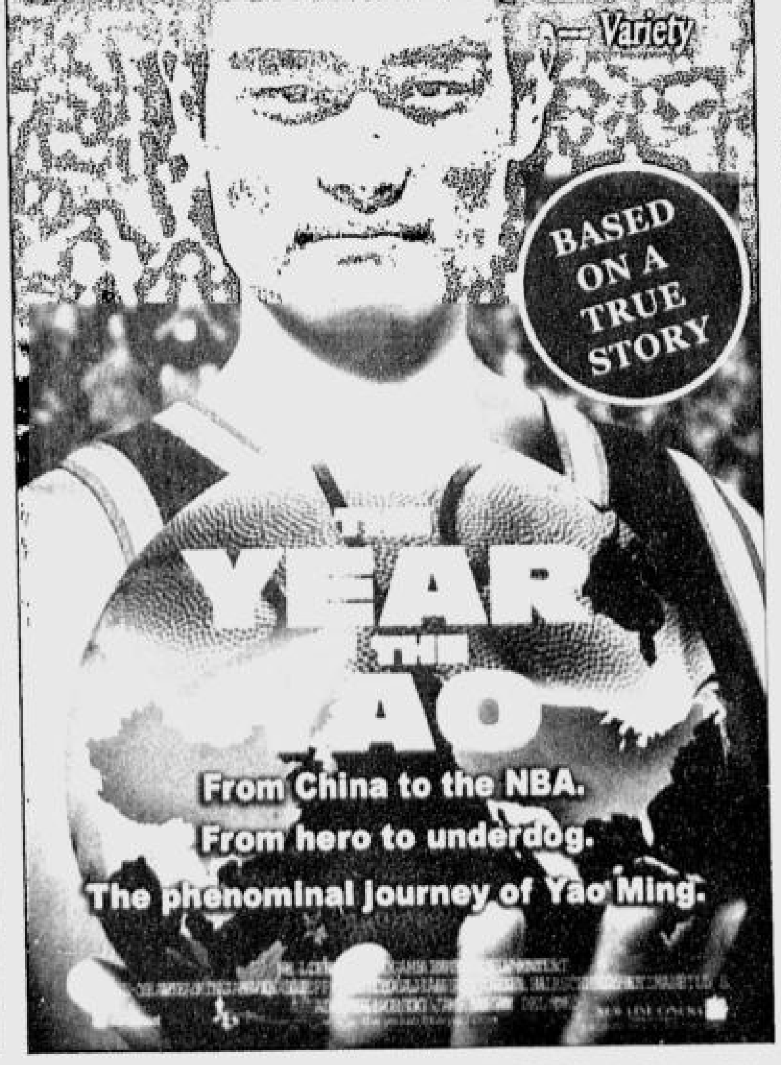

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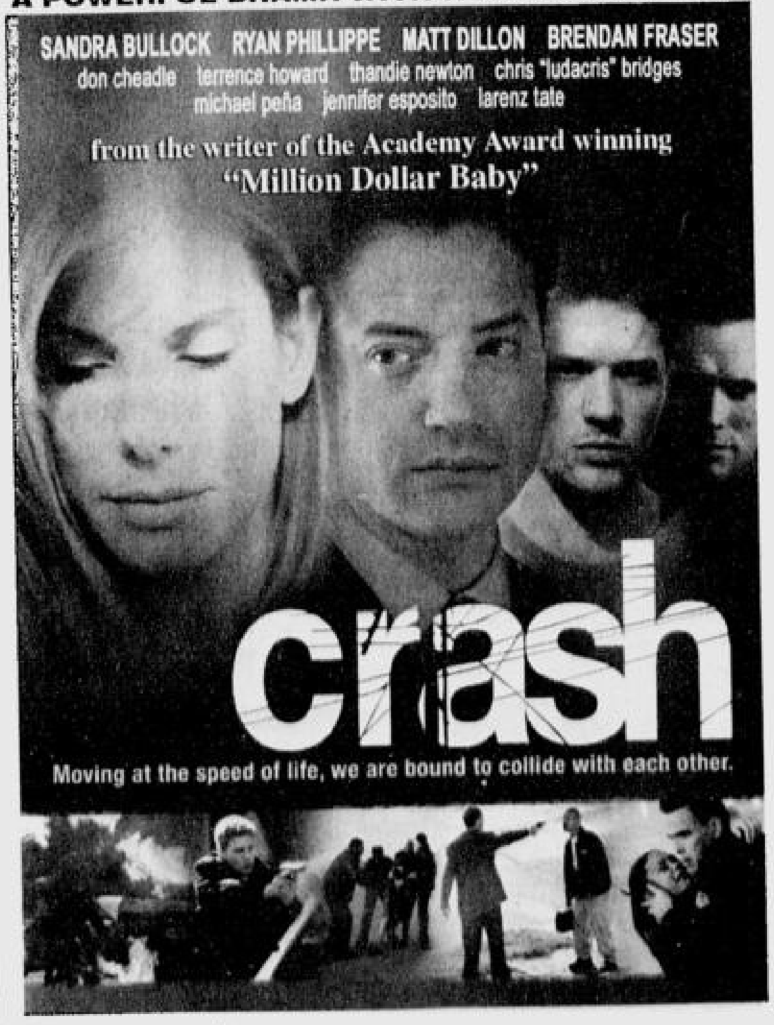

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from the writer of the Academy Award winning "Million Dollar Baby"
crash
Moving at the speed of life, we are bound to collide with each other.

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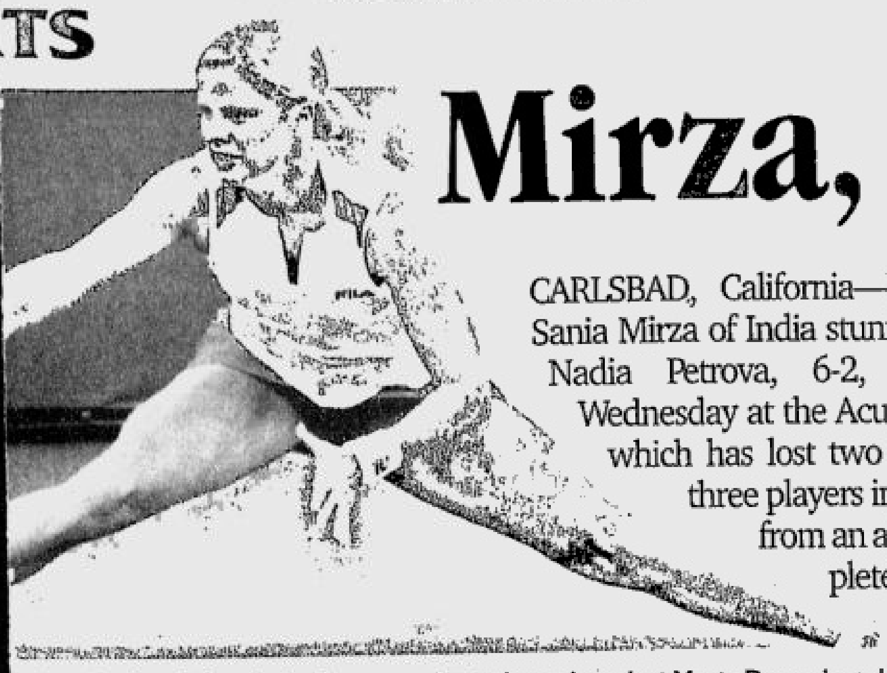
Mirza, Sugiyama post upsets



ut for a forehand shot during her second round match against Marta Domachowski of Poland at sta Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, Calif., Wednesday. AP

CARLSBAD, California—Unseeded Sania Mirza of India stunned No. 4 Nadia Petrova, 6-2, 6-1, on Wednesday at the Acura Classic, which has lost two of its top three players in two days from an already-depleted field.

Mirza, ranked 59th in the world, had a surprisingly easy time with the ninth-ranked Petrova in the second-round match. She joins Peng Shuai of China and Mashona Washington of the United States as unseeded players who knocked off highly ranked Russians early in the $1.3 million (euro1 million) tournament.

Peng was a 7-5, 6-4 winner Tuesday over Elena Dementieva, seeded third and ranked sixth.

Washington defeated No. 8 Vera Zvonareva 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. Four Russian players advanced to the third round from the original 11 who entered the event.

No. 7 seed Kim Clijsters of Belgium cruised into the third round with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Poland's Marta Domachowska in the featured night match. Clijsters, who beat Venus Williams on Sunday at Stanford, is looking for her fifth title of the season as she raised her record 39-5.

The tournament has lost three of its top four seeds, including No. 1 Lindsay Davenport, who withdrew with an injury on Sunday. Earlier injury pullouts were second-seeded Maria Sharapova, French Open champion and fifth-ranked Justine Henin-Hardenne, and 7th-ranked Serena Williams.

Mirza, who started the season ranked No. 169, had to win three matches in the qualifying tournament to get into the main draw.

"When you play a (highly ranked player), nothing is easy," Mirza said. "Even if the score is love and love, I don't think it would have been an easy match. I knew that as soon as I would have relaxed, even for one second, she would have jumped on me."

In January, Mirza became the first Indian to take a WTA Tour title when she won in her country at Hyderabad.

With Petrova and Dementieva exiting early, there remains just two of the top-10-ranked players—No. 4 Svetlana Kuznetsova and No. 10 Kim Clijsters. *AP*

s a SuperSonic for $85M

cluding performance bonuses.

Allen couldn't sign the deal un- the league's player movement oratorium was lifted Tuesday.

"We're absolutely thrilled to elcome Ray back to our am," Seattle general manager ick Sund said. "He's a proven l-Star and one of the top play- s in the NBA. He's been a tremendous asset for the Sonics, both on and off the court."

Allen, who had been pursued by Cleveland, Atlanta and the Los Angeles Clippers this offseason, joined Seattle in 2003 in a trade that sent fellow guard Gary Payton to Milwaukee. He enjoyed his best season with the Sonics in 2004-05, averaging 23.9 points and 3.7 assists in 78 regular-season games and earning his fifth All-Star Game appearance.

The 29-year-old Allen elevated his game in the playoffs, averaging 26.5 points and 3.9 assists in 11 games. Seattle lost in six games to eventual champion San Antonio in the Western Conference semi-finals. *AFP*

ALLEN: Happy with bounty.

IAAF sticks with 1-false start rule

HELSINKI, Finland—The International Association of Athletics Federations decided Wednesday to stick to the current one false-start rule for the next two years.

Led by Canada, several countries criticized the proposal for an immediate disqualification, leading IAAF president Lamine Diack to withdraw it from consideration from the rule-making congress. Even the IAAF's technical committee had raised objections.

"It's great. I like the way it is now," 100-meter Olympic champion Justin Gatlin said. "You have to have room for error to make mistakes to be better next time around."

The IAAF Council proposed doing away with the current system of allowing one false start, believing the rule is abused by athletes who want to unsettle opponents by deliberately false starting. *AP*

Sentra I-Style Makes a Statement

During the years after the rebirth of the domestic car industry, the Nissan Sentra established itself as a respected mainstay in the Philippine market, where it attained many great heights and braved numerous storms.

From the boxy Sentra that set the standard in level of features during its time, the famous B13 which had fuel injection as standard equipment, the Series III that made a mark in local motorsports, and the Exalta that upped the ante in luxury, the Sentra boasts of having one of the most colorful histories among compact cars sold in the Philippines.

Today, the Sentra still stands proud, and continues to generate its set of loyal followers. Proof of this is the increased number of Sentra units sold during the first six months of this year.

The Sentra also accounted for nearly half of the vehicles sold by NMPI during the first six months. In total units, Nissan Motor Philippines, Inc. (NMPI) registered a 19% increase in sales, one of the highest among car makers in the Philippines so far.

With the Sentra's sterling performance during the first six months of this year, NMPI is launching the 2005 Sentra I-Style in time for the opening of Nissan Show Center. The Sentra I-Style answers the demands of Sentra buyers who want more style and fashion for their vehicle, and excellent value for money.

MORE FEATURES, SAME PRICE

"The Sentra I-Style represents a big step in making NMPI's second best seller more appealing to compact car buyers, especially those who want to make a statement in style. With the new additions to the I-Style and no change in price at all, we are confident that a large number of compact car buyers will surely be interested in it," explained Dennis Chang, AVP for Marketing and Sales at NMPI.

The Sentra I-Style will be available in three variants: GS-AT, GSX-AT and GSX-MT. Standard for the GS-AT and the GSX-AT are the following new features: rear sensors; two-tone leather seats, modified headlamp, tail light and grille design. The GS-AT also comes with a heads-up display (HUD) digital speed readout. The GSX-MT is the practical I-Style choice, retaining the fabric seats. All the additions to the I-Style come at no additional cost.

I-STYLE, MY STYLE

The new tail lights have a transparent color, which imparts a hint of sportiness and style for the Sentra. This masked tail light shroud is in metallic gray instead of chrome, not unlike that found in Nissan's premium Infiniti brand.

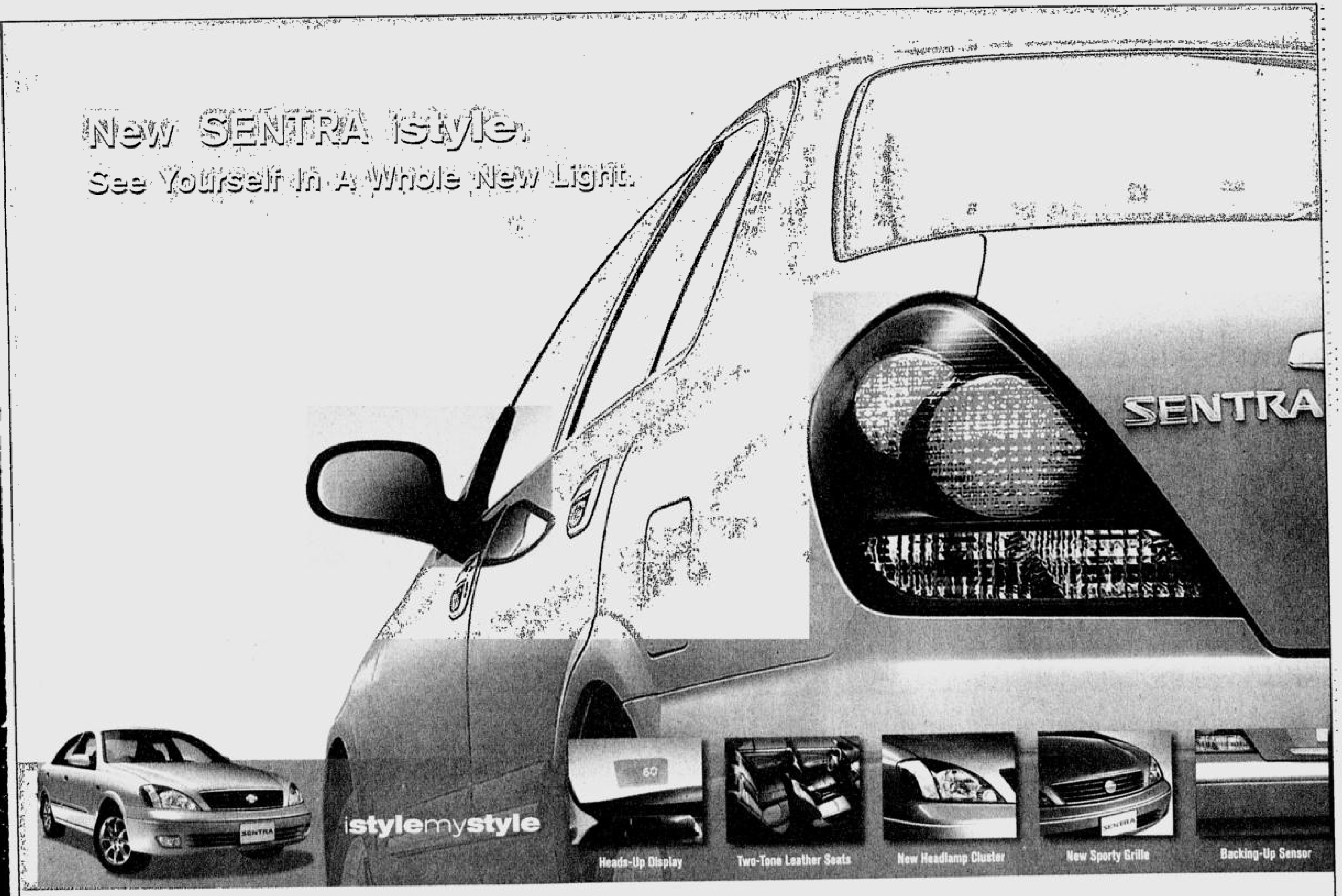
On the other hand, the Heads-up Display is a standard feature in many Infiniti vehicles, including NMPI's own Cefiro 300EX and Superior. It is very helpful in cruising along the highways, because it gives the exact readout of a vehicle's speed, and helps keep the eye of the driver on the road.

"We are aiming at a younger market," explains Mr. Chang. "Whether young-in-age or young-at-heart, this Sentra sends the clear message - This is your style. In the near future, we are going to partner with leading personalities in the aftermarket to further strengthen our 'I-Style, My Style' concept."

The Sentra I-Style will be powered by the 1.6-liter QG16DE engine with Nissan's Variable Timing Control (VTC) that produces 116PS at 6,000 rpm and 14.9 kg-m of torque at 4,400 rpm. Aside from providing adequate power, the QG16DE engines are known for their superior running smoothness.

All Sentra I-Styles are also equipped with an Automatic Climate Control System, and 15-inch alloy rims for the GS and 14-inch alloys for the GSX.

The prices of the Sentra I-Style are: GS-AT P798,000; GSX-AT P758,000; and GSX-MT P718,000. The best-looking Sentra to come out of NMPI in recent years can be closely appreciated in authorized Nissan dealers starting July 29, 2005. (NMPI News Service)



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Ayala MUSEUM

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AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	THE EYE... INFINITY	CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	ARAHAN	D' ANOTHERS			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	STEALTH	CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	THX CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GUARANTEED SEATS	CRASH	THE YEAR OF THE YAO	D' ANOTHERS	WEDDING CRASHERS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	D' ANOTHERS	CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX WEDDING CRASHERS GUARANTEED SEATS	THX CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GUARANTEED SEATS	CRASH GUARANTEED SEATS	STEALTH GUARANTEED SEATS	CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	WEDDING CRASHERS	STEALTH	CRASH	D' ANOTHERS		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	AMYTYVILLE HORROR	PREMONITION	D' ANOTHERS			

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JOHNNY DEPP
Charlie AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
POWERBOOKS

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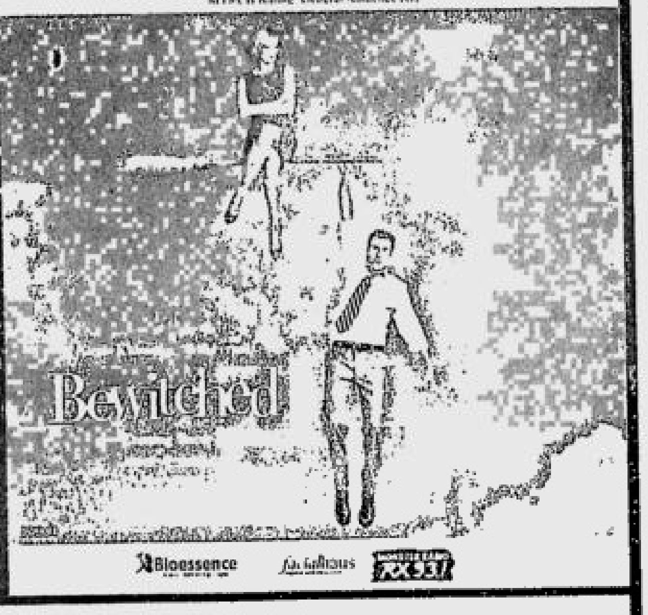

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn

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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

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① Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
② Stealth
③ The Eye... The Infinity
④ Year of the Yao
⑤ D' Anothers

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-354, Series of 2005

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FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9115/16

	Movie	Times
1	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY • thx	1:30 4:10 6:50 9:30
2	D' ANOTHERS	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3	CRASH	12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
4	ARAHAN	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
5	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
6	STEALTH	1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50
7	THE EYE INFINITY	1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00
8	WEDDING CRASHERS	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
9	YEAR OF THE YAO	1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
10	THE ISLAND	1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12.

	Movie	Times
1	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2	THE EYE INFINITY	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3	ARAHAN	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4	WEDDING CRASHERS	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50
5	STEALTH	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50
6	D' ANOTHERS	12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:50
7	CRASH	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

	Movie	Times
1	STEALTH	1:05 3:35 6:15 9:00
2	IF ONLY	12:00 2:10 4:20 6:35 9:00
3	D' ANOTHERS	1.20 3:55 6:30 9:05
4	THE ISLAND	1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
5	THE EYE INFINITY	12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
6	WEDDING CRASHERS	1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05
7	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05
8	YEAR OF THE YAO	12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

PIONEER 687-5378

1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 STEALTH
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 CRASH

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STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 STEALTH
2 EVIL DEAD
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 THE ISLAND

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
3 EVIL DEAD
4 D' ANOTHERS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 STEALTH
2 THE ISLAND
3 IF ONLY
4 D' ANOTHERS

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 EVIL DEAD
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 STEALTH

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-6188

1 D' ANOTHERS
2 STEALTH
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

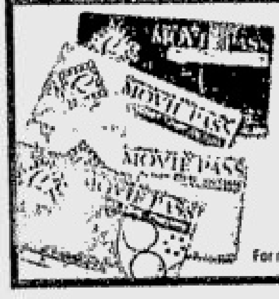
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 IF ONLY
3 SHANGHAI LILY
4 THE ISLAND
5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 STEALTH

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 THE ISLAND
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
5 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
6 NEW POLICE STORY

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE ISLAND
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 IF ONLY
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
5 NEW POLICE STORY



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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1: STEALTH PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15

CINEMA 2: CHARLIE & the CHOCOLATE FACTORY - GP 10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS

...a dinertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3: CRASH R13 11:10, 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25

CINEMA 4: YEAR OF THE YAO - PG13 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00

CINEMA 5: CHARLIE & the CHOCOLATE FACTORY - GP 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

AUGUST 6	NONOY ZUNIGA "THE LOVE CONCERT"	9PM
September 2 & 3	MOJO FLY	8:30PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
MTRCB GP
10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 LMF

② CRASH
MTRCB R-13
1:30, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15 LMF

③ WEDDING CRASHERS
MTRCB PG-13
11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

④ STEALTH
MTRCB PG-13
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30 LMF

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
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For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

CRASH
1:15, 3:40, 6:05
8:30, 10:50
R-13

CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
11:05, 2:30, 5:20
8:10, 11:00
GP

WEDDING CRASHERS
11:50, 2:30, 5:10
7:50, 10:30
PG-13

STEALTH
12:30, 3:10, 5:50
8:30, 11:00
PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

CRASH R13 11:50,2:25,5:00,7:35,10:10	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP 12:20,2:40,5.00,7:20,9:40	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10
WEDDING CRASHERS PG13 12:35,3.05,5:35, 8:05,10:30	THE ISLAND PG13 12:55,4:00,7:00,10:00	STEALTH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15

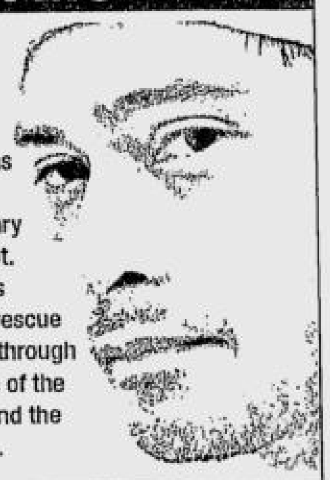
WORLD PREMIERE PHILS : AUG.10

$80M SUPER PRODUCTION

The Great Raid on Cabanatuan

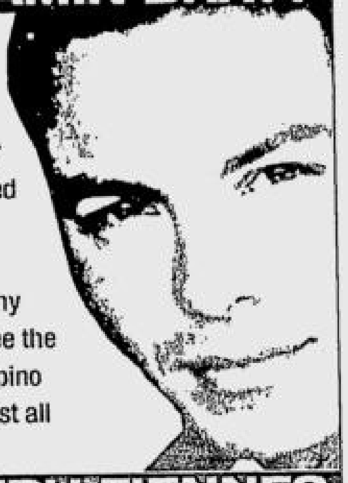
THE DARING EXPLOIT THAT WOULD LIBERATE MORE THAN 500 AMERICAN & FILIPINO POWs IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS.

CESAR MONTANO



is Capt. Juan Pajota, the Pilipino resistance fighter who was able to bring Lt. Colonel Henry Mucci and Capt. Robert Prince's danger-laden rescue plan to reality through his knowledge of the local culture and the lay of the land.

BENJAMIN BRATT

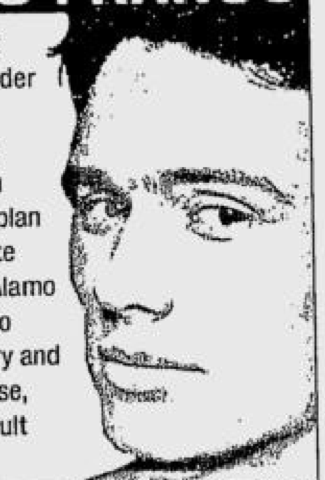


is Lt. Col. Henry A. Mucci, the tough leader who executed the plan to penetrate behind enemy lines and free the U.S. and Filipino POWs against all odds.

JOSEPH FIENNES

is Maj. Gibson. The highest ranking officer in the death camp who serves as an inspirational force to the 500 prisoners.

JAMES FRANCO



is Capt. Robert Prince. The leader of the raiding operation who comes up with an audacious plan to have his elite Rangers and Alamo Scouts slip into enemy territory and make a surprise, lightning assault on the camp.

CONNIE NIELSEN

is Margaret, a member of the Secret Underground Movement. The Catholic aid worker assisting the prisoners' medical needs.

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

THE GREAT RAID

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the podium 633-8976

1 CRASH
01:05FS/01:35MF/04:00/06:25
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:50END
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
12:50FS/1:20MF/03:50/6:20
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:55END

cebu (032) 231-3876

1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:45/07:38
09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 THE ISLAND
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:25LFS/09:30LMF/11:45END
3 STEALTH
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10LFS/09:30LFS/11:30END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 STEALTH
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTO
6 THE ISLAND
ARAHAN
CRASH
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 MARTIN NIEVERA CONCERT
11 WEDDING CRASHERS
12 THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
IF ONLY
2 NEW POLICE STORY
WEDDING CRASHERS
4 THE ISLAND
5 ARAHAN
D' ANOTHERS
STEALTH
8 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
9 THE EYE INFINITY
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
YEAR OF THE YAO
WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM NORTH EDSA
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 STEALTH
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 ARAHAN
7 CRASH
8 ICE PRINCESS

SM CITY MANILA
CRASH
2 STEALTH
YEAR OF THE YAO
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 THE ISLAND
FANTASTIC FOUR
ARAHAN
8 IF ONLY
D' ANOTHERS
10 THE MACHINIST
WEDDING CRASHERS
THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY STA MESA
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 YEAR OF THE YAO
3 STEALTH
4 CRASH
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 THE EYE INFINITY
7 WEDDING CRASHERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 THE ISLAND
10 ARAHAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 YEAR OF THE YAO
THE MACHINIST
STEALTH
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 WEDDING CRASHERS
7 ARAHAN
8 THE ISLAND
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 THE EYE INFINITY

SM SAN LAZARO
YEAR OF THE YAO
2 STEALTH
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE EYE INFINITY
5 ARAHAN
D' ANOTHERS

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 STEALTH
YEAR OF THE YAO

SM CITY BICUTAN
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
D' ANOTHERS
YEAR OF THE YAO
STEALTH

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
STEALTH
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 THE ISLAND
IF ONLY
5 THE MACHINIST
6 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BACOOR
THE MACHINIST
WEDDING CRASHERS
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE ISLAND
STEALTH
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 THE EYE INFINITY
8 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE MACHINIST
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 IF ONLY
4 STEALTH

SM CITY LUCENA
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE JACKET
4 CREEP

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SIN CITY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
4 NEW POLICE STORY

SM CITY MARILAO
MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE MACHINIST
4 STEALTH

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 NEW POLICE STORY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 THE ISLAND
3 STEALTH
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 PREMONITION
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 D' ANOTHERS
THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

SM CITY ILOILO
NEW POLICE STORY
2 RESERVED
IF ONLY
4 D' ANOTHERS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND
7 RESERVED
8 CAMPUS GHOST STORY

SM CITY DAVAO
STEALTH
IF ONLY
D' ANOTHERS
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
THE ISLAND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
CREEP
D' ANOTHERS
NEW POLICE STORY
4 IF ONLY

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Be there as EPSON takes photographs of kids beside the whole Charlie and the Chocolate Factory gang for FREE at the cinema lobby of SM City North Edsa on August 6 and 7 and SM Megamall on August 12 and 14.

Johnny Depp
A TIM BURTON FILM
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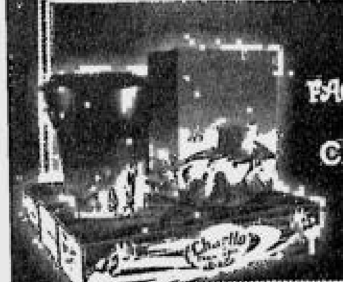
PLAN B
www.charlieandthechocolatefactory-asia.com



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Ice Princess

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STI rolls back PLM; CEU wins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NORMAN Nuñez and Jonathan Belano stood in the forefront of a fourth-quarter assault as STI downed Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, 67-57, yesterday to keep second place in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the UM Gym.

Hounded by the PLM Eagles for three quarters, the Olympians broke away for good as Nuñez and Belano combined to secure STI's fourth victory in five games behind unbeaten leader University of Manila.

Nuñez also accounted for nine rebounds while Belano had three assists. Fil-American David Tapley contributed eight points and nine rebounds for the Olympians, whose only loss was inflicted by Centro Escolar University.

Anthony Somera starred for the Eagles (0-4) with 16 points and 14 rebounds. Rey David added 10 points and three assists, and Patrick Castillo contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The CEU Scorpions chalked up their second straight win by snapping University of Makati's winning run with a 69-61 decision.

Jeric Magno led CEU (2-1) with 11 points. Deo Carillo scored 10 points and June Macasaet and Almer Cristobal chipped in eight each.

The UMak Wizards, who fell to 2-3, was led by the 15 points of Jonathan Domangcas.

Sander Salvador and JR Maranon combined for 16 points in overtime as AMA Computer picked up its first win in junior play via a 99-93 decision over Better Children of St. Clare Montessori Center.

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Casamilan Gym*)
10 a.m.—St. Clare vs NEU (Jrs)
(*UM Gym*)
2 p.m.—HAU vs UM (Jrs)
3:30 p.m.—HAU vs UM (Srs)

The varsity scores:

First Game (Srs)

STI 67—Nuñez 10, Belano 10, Tapley 8, Micutuan 6, Mabayo 6, Martin 5, Espiritu 4, Wong 4, Botin 3, Legaspi 3, Limpin 3, Lim 3, Dia 2, Ebuengga 0.

PLM 57—Somera 16, David 10, Casulla 10, Asay 9, Navo 3, Pascual 2, Dela Cruz 2, Cabrera 2, Tayer 2, Velenzona 1, Biala 0, Viernes 0, Galindez 0, Ferreria 0.

Quarters: 11-10, 23-23, 49-46, 67-57

Second Game (Srs)

CEU 69—Magno 11, Carillo 10, Macasaet 8, Cristobal 8, Salamat 7, Dayag 6, Cordero 4, Franco 4, F. Romulo 4, Bacsal 3, Lalota 3, Gatdula 1, J. Romulo 0.

UMAK 61—Domangcas 15, Tapit 8, Nograda 7, Mangaran 7, Lorica 6, Tamaray 5, Silva 4, Commerciase 3, Barrios 3, Banguibang 2, Lunag 1, Del Rosario 0, Mastelero 0.

Quarters: 11-9, 30-24, 49-43, 69-61.

UAAP chess tourney gets going Sunday

DEFENDING champion La Salle, bannered by two-time MVP John Paul Gomez, takes on third seed Ateneo when the UAAP Season 68 chess tournament reels off this Sunday at the UE Briefing Room in Manila.

The UP women drew an opening-day bye in distaff play, which starts simultaneously with the men's competition at 8:30 a.m.

Other men's games pit No. 2 Santo Tomas against No. 4 University of the Philippines, No. 5 Far Eastern against No. 7 Adamson and No. 6 University of the East against No. 8 National University.

In women's action, it will be No. 2 Santo Tomas against No. 7 NU, No. 3 La Salle against No. 6 FEU and No. 4 UE against No. 5 Ateneo.

Fiba should lift ban

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

DURING a gathering of sportsmen from around the world at Paris on June 23, 1894, French nobleman Baron Pierre de Coubertin successfully proposed the revival of the Olympic Games as well as the creation of the International Olympic Committee, the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement.

The first modern Olympic Games was held in Athens on April 6, 1896, under the aegis of the IOC. Under the IOC are the International Sports Federations, which include the Fiba (International Basketball Federation), the ruling body for basketball; the National Olympic Committees (the Philippine Olympic Committee in our case), the National Sports Associations, sports clubs and the athletes.

The revival of the Olympic Games grew from the baron's campaign to have physical activity included in his nation's educational curriculum.

Coubertin was convinced that the defeat of France during the Franco-Prussian War of 1871 was due to the poor physical condition of the French people. He believed that a structured athletic program would be advantageous to his countrymen if sports were a part of the curriculum.

It was also Coubertin's desire that there should be a broad-based movement, which through sports, would enhance human development, promote peace and international understanding. This is possible if there is cooperation between and among the sports organizations concerned.

But this is not the case between the Fiba and the POC. Fiba's suspension of the Philippines has deprived millions of our young basketball players the opportunity to play in international competitions, including the forthcoming SEA Games where host Philippines is the defending basketball champion. With the ban, it is clearly the athletes who will suffer.

Go Teng Kok, special assistant to POC president Peping Cojuangco, is now in Europe to personally lobby for the case of Philippine basketball before Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann in Geneva and Fiba president Carl Ching Menky in Hong Kong. Go will also plead for immediate action on the application for Fiba recognition of the newly formed Philippine Basketball Federation which replaced the Basketball Association of the Philippines. The BAP was expelled by the POC general assembly for reneging on an agreement regarding the formation of the national men's cage team. The POC earlier stepped into the cage picture as a result of the national outrage over a series of embarrassing defeats suffered by BAP-supported teams in international and local tournaments.

"The Fiba has the final say on our basketball row," said PBF president Moying Martelino. "*Lahat yan* Fiba calls."

Speaking of the Fiba, the sports body that had original jurisdiction over basketball was the International Amateur Athletic Federation. You see, way back in 1926, the IAAF was the organization that ruled all ball games played with the hands such as handball, volleyball and basketball particularly in Europe, where ball games were a regular feature of track and field events specially during the winter months.

But basketball soon became very popular it needed a governing body of its own. This led to the formation of the Fiba in 1932.

Fiba has had stormy relations with the Philippines in the past. In 1962, BAP was fined $2,000 and the 4th World Basketball Championship in Manila was cancelled when the late President Diosdado Macapagal denied entry to the Yugoslavian team. Then in early 2001, the BAP was suspended because of the leadership controversy between Freddie Jalasco and two-time Fiba president Lito Puyat on one side and Tiny Literal on the other. And now this POC-BAP imbroglio.

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Race 4—1. Mighty Mare/Rhyme and A Prayer 2. Tres Jeune 3. District Three 4. Footwear

Race 5—1. Ring Tone/Suppressed 2. Heroics 3. Rush 4. American Woman

Race 6—1. Empire State 2. Jamie's Princess 3. Charmingly Chit 4. Sir Lawrence

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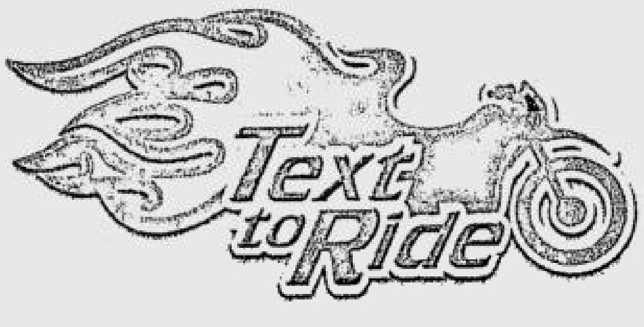

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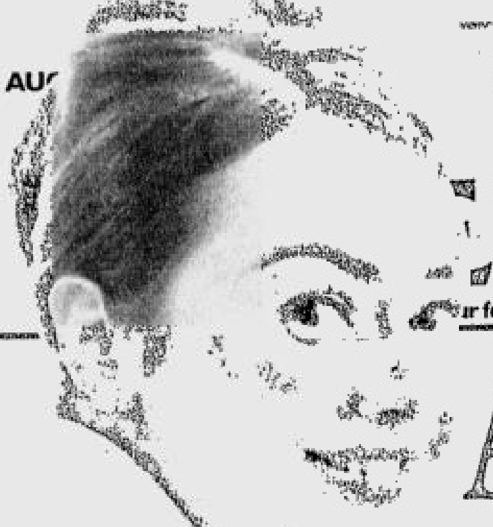

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At home with Donita

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

She wants to be taken more and more seriously, and is this trying to look more sophisticated

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

(PINAY ex-veejay and actress Donita Rose's Modess commercials are currently airing in Thailand and China. She recently shot a new Dimetapp commercial here in Manila with her son JP. MTV also recently gave her a tribute and invited her to do special episodes of Pop Inc—to be aired all over Asia. She started taping on Monday, Aug. 1. INQUIRER Entertainment visited her in Singapore, where she is based.)

"OH, it's just breaded chicken, nothing special," says Donita Rose as she ushers us into the kitchen of the condo unit in Singapore that she shares with husband Eric Villarama and their firstborn.

Joshua Paul turned one last month.

"I just went for something simple," she explains, carefully setting a piece of the chicken on a bed of mashed potatoes. But the way Donita sets the table makes a simple meal like a fine-dining experience. She even dons a blue-and-beige apron with matching toque.

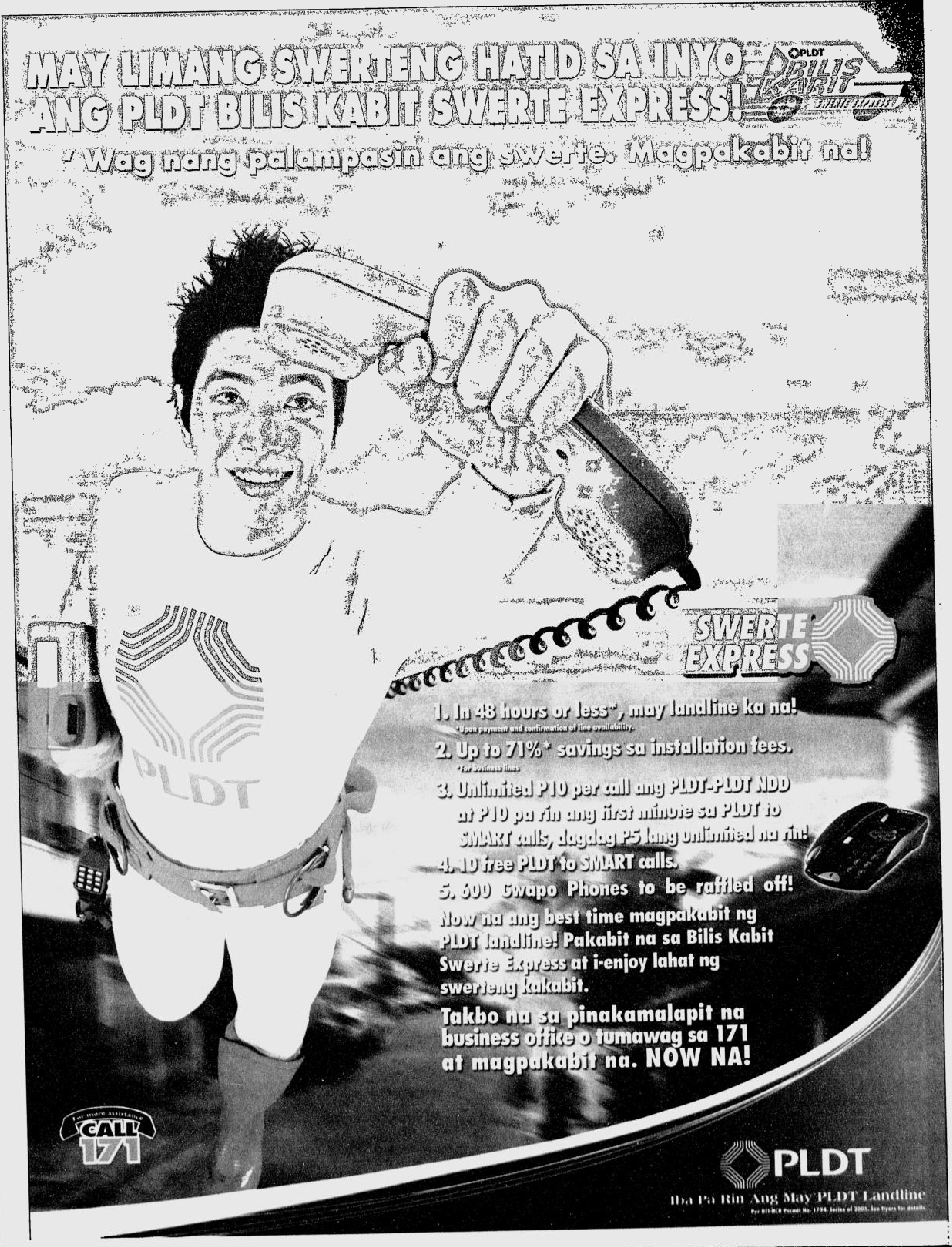
Donita, whose effervescent personality has made her one of MTV's best-known VJs and the cutest Time magazine cover girl ever, is also the perfect host.

"When I'm here, I'm not really working, so I devote my time to my family," she shares. "I spend most of my time at home with JP. I start preparing at about 4 o'clock for dinner—you know, groceries. I can't stock up too much in the fridge. It's too small. I also fix the house."

The Philippines is Donita's career hub. She regularly flies in for acting and hosting gigs.

"The longest I've been away is three-and-a-half weeks. I want [my husband] to miss me more. Sometimes he says,

AT HOME/ A2-4



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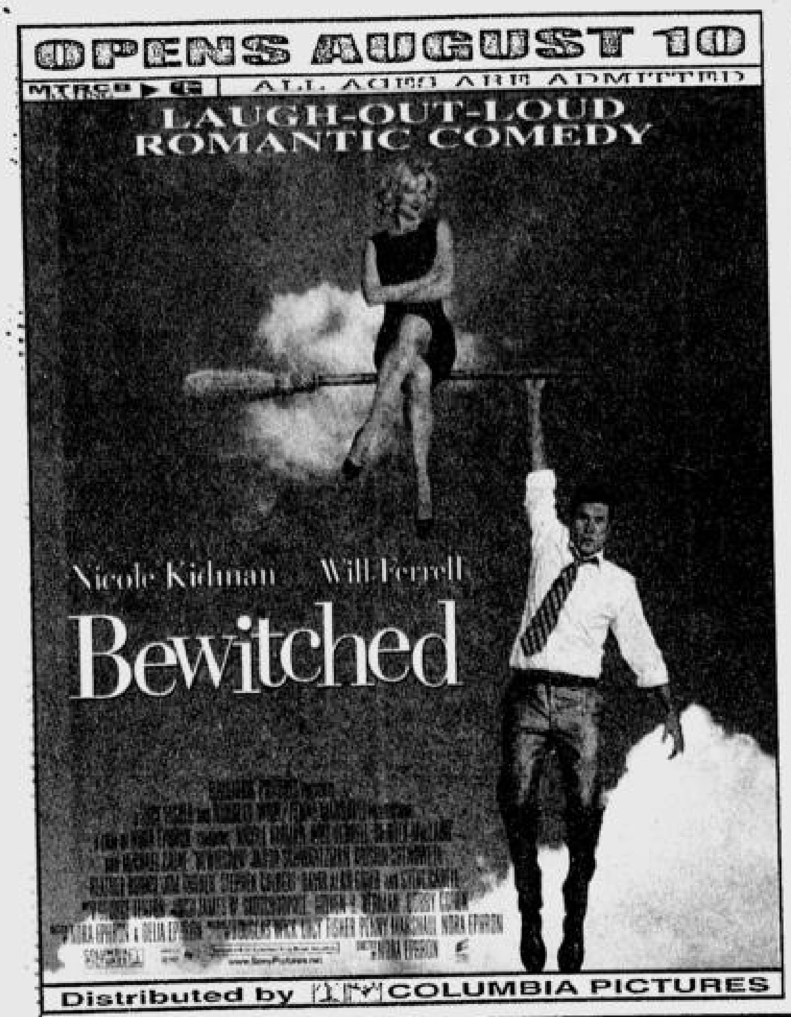

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Trying to do too much

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Joyce Bernal's latest movie is stuffed full of elements that cloud its plot and theme

EVER since **Joyce Bernal** started directing for the movies, I've been a fan. I like the fact that she began working in the film trade as an editor, a specialized skill that has enabled her to tell cinematic stories clearly and fluidly.

To date, Joyce has concentrated on comedies, romantic comedies and fantasy-romantic comic romps. Her comedic style is unique due to its light tongue-in-cheek quality, which comes off better than the more usual heavy-handed, gimmick- and slapstick-oriented flicks of most other local directors of comedy films.

Like some other fans of "**Ishmael Bernal**'s cinematic daughter," I hope that, in time, Joyce will finally get around to making a comedy film with greater substance and insight. That production would further affirm her exceptional talent, as it deserves to be acknowledged.

For the moment, however, I'm quite happy to view and enjoy a new Joyce Bernal movie once a year or every two years. After all, Joyce is still young, so she can take her time ...

Recently, however, I watched Joyce's latest movie, "D Anothers," and I must confess that it gave me pause for thought, and challenged my loyalty to her filmmaking style.

Unlike her early films, its storytelling was far from lucid. Indeed, the movie was stuffed full of so many diverse elements that its plot and theme barely made themselves clear.

I *knew* that the film was about a 'fraidy-cat (**Vhong Navarro**) who inherited an old mansion full of ghosts. The spooks were bent on making it through a portal that opened only once every 25 years.

Those who didn't make it through that portal would have to suffer the indignity of being reincarnated as pesky insects. And it was Vhong's fated duty to help the "good" spirits get through that all-important portal—despite the fact that he too had become a spirit, so he had to somehow be brought back to life so he could be of service to the other ghosts.

I knew all that, and yet the movie went into so many other side stories and detours that viewing it became a confusing and occasionally off-putting experience. This, despite its really funny bits, good production values and attractive visual effects.

Perhaps the fact that the production had to deal with so many ghosts was a problem. Another possible reason for the mess could be the "filmmaking by committee" system operating in some movie studios, with too many people throwing in too many disjointed ideas, which the director has to stuff into his or her film, thus distending it to confounding proportions.

Whatever the most operative factor in this instance, "'D Anothers" ended up trying to say and do too much.

We hope that, in her next film, Joyce Bernal returns to her clear, crisp, editing-rooted way of making movies, and fend off all suggestions and additions that could again muck up her much-admired signature style for telling amusing stories on the big screen.

'Super Mums'

STARTING on Saturday, Aug. 13, at 9 p.m., Animal Planet telecasts "Super Mums," a program that explores the trials and triumphs of motherhood in the animal kingdom.

One of the most dedicated mothers featured in the show is the sea otter mom. She spends a full year with her pup, teaching him how to catch food and avoid the dangers in the coastal California waters where the program was shot.

On the other hand, the elephant seal mother loses 40 percent of her body weight during the four weeks she has to wean her pup. She neither eats nor drinks; when the four weeks are up, she returns to the sea, leaving her pup alone on the beach to fend for itself.

The control freak of the animal world, the California mouse mother, has other ideas. She uses her urine to brainwash her partner, ensuring that her mate does the housework and bathes the kids, while she restricts her duties to feeding her young.

In extreme contrast, "Super Mums" reveals that Amaurobious spider sacrifices everything for her babies—she is even their first meal!

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7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
8 D' ANOTHERS
9 YEAR OF THE YAO
10 ARAHAN

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1 NEW POLICE STORY
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1 (DOLBY EX) STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY

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1 D' ANOTHER
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
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4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

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1 D' ANOTHER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 (DTS) THE ISLAND

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2 D' ANOTHERS

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3 (DOLBY) MONSTER IN LAW
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2 D' ANOTHERS
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH

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2 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
3 GAMITAN
4 (DTS) THE ISLAND

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5 D' ANOTHERS

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1 GRACIA
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
4 D' ANOTHERS

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YEAR OF THE YAO
1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
CRASH
12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20
EYE INFINITY
12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
STEALTH
2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 1:45 / 4:10 STEALTH 6:35 / 9:00
D' ANOTHERS
12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
IF ONLY
1:05 / 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00
WEDDING CRASHERS
1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
THE ISLAND
1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① D' ANOTHERS
11:25 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25
② YEAR OF THE YAO
12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
③ CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
12:50 / 3:15 / 5:40 / 8:05
④ ARAHAN
1:15 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:45
⑤ STEALTH
12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Aug. 6 Saturday FEU vs UP Jrs 10am NU vs DLSU Jrs 12nn NU vs DLSU Srs 2pm FEU vs UP Srs 4pm
MTV PILIPINAS 2005
August 25, Thursday 8 pm
UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES
August 13, Saturday
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE
August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS
PROMOS: Araneta Center Hoopla raffle promo ongoing until October 14. Watch a game at the Coliseum + Buy a Sim Pack + Shop at Araneta Center for a chance to win trips to Singapore, Thailand, Cebu, Bohol, Boracay, Palawan & Puerto Galera! Plus 10 Nokia cellphones and 25 iPods!
PERFORMANCES: Cool Live Jazz at the Gateway Courtyard featuring Chedi on August 5 (9pm); Cueshe (8pm) and Skarlet & The Jazz Volunteers (9pm) on August 6
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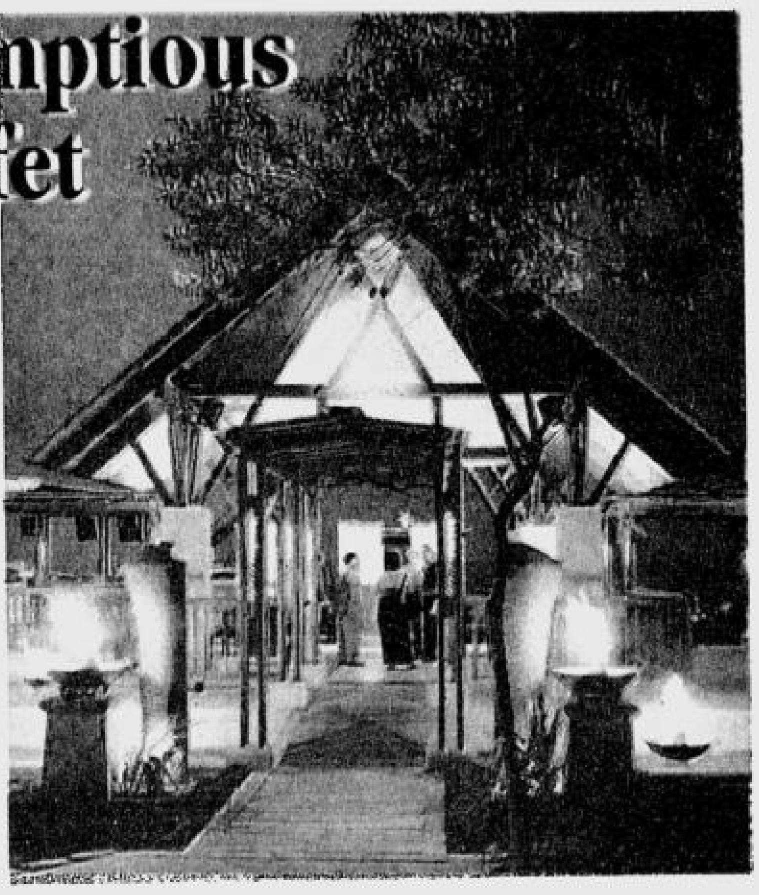
Cowrie Cove's scrumptious seafood dinner buffet



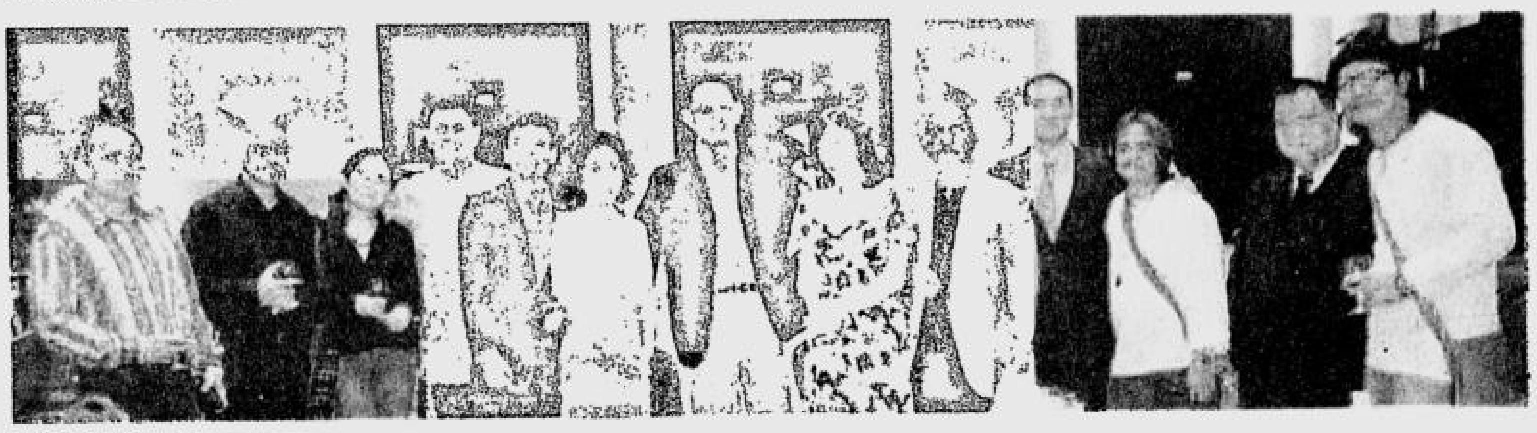
FOR the ultimate seaside dining experience, Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa's Cowrie Cove brings back its Seafood Dinner Buffet every Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m. Feast on the restaurant's extensive variety of seafood dishes for P1,250++.

Lounge in the resort's most romantic and breathtaking spot while you enjoy the freshest catch of the day, cooked in various ways to satisfy your every craving. Indulge your other senses with the invigorating sea breeze, the magnificent ocean view and the calming sound of the waves. Dine al fresco under a canopy of stars in one of Cowrie Cove's outer decks and 'hanging booths' or, in air-conditioned comfort.

Enjoy Cowrie Cove Chillout Bar's Happy Hours from 5 to 7 p.m. daily. It's "buy-one-take-one" on standard drinks. On Saturdays, Venus Rocks the 80s as Cowrie Cove Chillout Bar brings back this decade of decadence from 10 p.m. onwards.

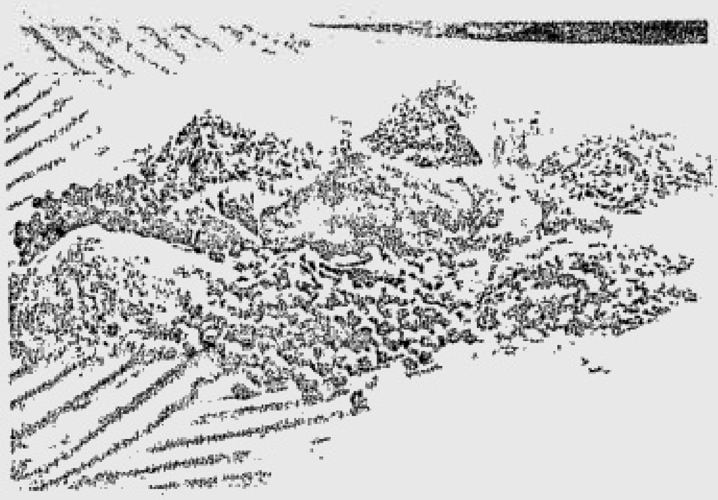
Cowrie Cove is open for dinner from 6 to 10:30 p.m. daily (A la carte served daily except on Thursday buffet nights). Cowrie Cove Chillout Bar is open from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m on weekdays and until 2 a.m. on weekends.

For more information, please contact the hotel's Restaurant's Reservation and Information Centre at 2318 224.



FINE ART AND FINE WINES AT THE BELLEVUE HOTEL

The penultimate venue for high art events at the south of Metro Manila successfully staged 'Sining Kontempo sa Bellevue,' an art exhibit and wine tasting affair in one. Organized by The Bellevue Hotel in cooperation with art group Kontempo and wine provider Philippine Wine Merchants, the event held at the luxuriously appointed The Bellevue Grand Ballroom served as a toast to southerners as well as a fundraising affair. 'The Bellevue welcomes you to an evening of artistic pleasures where we give much-needed exposure for our local talents, especially those from Alabang since we are deeply involved in projects that help our community. Also, part of the proceeds from the artworks will be given to charity-proof of Bellevue's desire to be known not only as an establishment catering to discerning individuals, but also, as a hotel that cares,' The Bellevue general manager Patrick Chan explains. Join The Bellevue's next wine tasting and art events by calling 771-8181.



Spice up at Dusit Hotel Nikko this August

"THE FLAVORS of life are in the Spices!"

The Asian flair of "Herbs and Spices" will enliven your zest for a unique culinary experience through Dusit Hotel Nikko's much-celebrated authentic Asian specialty restaurants.

Sample the appetizing culinary creations of Benjarong which highlights the flavors of kaffir leaves, chili and basil. Try chef Tun's Talay Gery Tuen (fried seafood with herbs and chili) or Thien Duong's dishes featuring five (5) of Hanoi's best cuisine using authentic Vietnamese herbs and spices like dill and mint leaves, coriander, black pepper and chili. Sample chef Nguyen's Cha Ca La Vong (pan fried fish sliced with dill leaves, mint and coriander). Have a taste of Fiesta San Miguel's superb Filipino cooking as it highlights the perennial and sweet scented herb - lemongrass. Savor the Ginataang Sugpo at Tahong (tiger prawns and new zealand mussels with sliced local sausages in lemongrass coconut sauce) The Café, on the other hand, will include it its sumptuous buffet the savory flavors of rosemary, thyme, parsley, cayenne pepper and nutmeg among others to add a more distinct taste to its popular dishes.

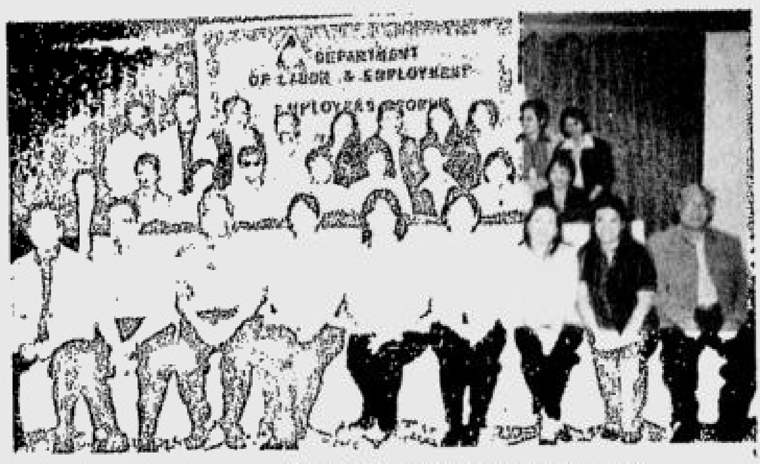
All the showcased cuisine is guaranteed to delight the senses and please your palates as the hotel's seasoned chefs intimately prepared each culinary offering of the outlets for your satisfaction.

With this, Dusit Hotel Nikko invites you to relish your passion for great food as inspired by the distinct flavors of "Herbs and Spices."

For queries and dining reservations, call 867-3333.

LANDBANK SEMINAR AT THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA

LandBank Countryside Development Foundation Inc recently organized a seminar on Compliance Management Techniques and Anti-Money Laundering Training for Countryside Financial Institutions. The said event was held at The Executive Plaza Hotel. Photo shows VP Edna P. Hingco (first row, sitting, 4th from left), resource person and the participants of the training. Kristine Paras and Lizette Narvas, rooms and banquet account managers respectively of The Executive Plaza Hotel handled the said activity.



DOLE HOLDS FORUM AT PALM PLAZA HOTEL

The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) recently had an Employers Forum at the Cocoy's Ballroom of Palm Plaza Hotel. Ma. Louisa Gigette S. Imperial - director of Bureau of Local Employment of Dole organized the activity. Photo shows the participants of the said discussion. The meeting was facilitated by Maricel Modelo - Palm Plaza Hotel's banquet account manager.

Spend your weekends at Somerset

ENJOY a relaxing weekend at Somerset Olympia or Somerset Salcedo serviced residences in Makati. The residences are offering special weekend rates to guests from July to September 2005.

Experience the art of living in its stylish serviced residences. At Somerset Olympia, you can choose from studios to two-bedroom apartments at special discounted rates of P2,500 to P5,200. For those who enjoy the privacy of residential living in the heart of the city, Somerset Salcedo's spacious units are the perfect weekend getaway. You can choose from studios to three-bedroom serviced residences at special rates of P2,600 to P5,800. The special rates include complimentary buffet breakfast and use of all recreational facilities, including a swimming pool and fully-equipped fitness centre.

Somerset's weekend promotions are valid from Fridays to Sundays. Special rates are subject to a 10 percent service charge and 10.5 percent government tax. The weekend promotion applies to local residents and foreign guests with ACR.

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ENTERTAINMENT

The great wait is over

CESAR Montano's name 10th in credits

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—The great wait for "The Great Raid," featuring **Cesar Montano,** is over.

Release date of this film, which began production in 2002 and which is about the daring rescue of 500 American prisoners of war in the Philippines in 1945, was changed several times by Miramax. Thus, whenever our press group interviewed (for other movies) any of the film's stars, including **Benjamin Bratt** and **James Franco,** the standard question was, "When will 'The Great Raid' be shown?"

Nobody could give a firm answer. A partial explanation was finally offered by Los Angeles Times' writer **John Horn** in his story on June 8: "The release of several of the Miramax movies (including 'The Great Raid') was held up partially by the very public divorce of the Weinsteins [Bob and Harvey, founders of Miramax] and Disney, which bought [Miramax] in 1993."

Could've been

When "The Great Raid" was recently screened for our group at the Clarity Theater in Beverly Hills, I was probably the most eager. It's not every day that I get to see a Hollywood film set in the Philippines.

It was unfortunate, though, that it was, in fact, filmed in China and Australia because of the terrorist incidents in the Philippines during pre-production. Imagine the number of jobs that could have gone to our own talented movie workers, not to mention millions of dollars that the production could have budgeted for logistics alone. More Filipino actors and extras could have also been hired.

But the film is now due for release in the United States on Aug. 12 so our lament is all water under the (Cabanatuan) bridge, to borrow an imagery from the film.

I hauled my family to watch this movie based on **Hampton Sides**' book, "Ghost Soldiers," and historian **William B. Breuer**'s "The Great Raid on Cabanatuan." Since the release was moved back several times, usually not a good sign in Hollywood, I came to the Clarity Theater with not-so-great expectations.

I was also apprehensive since a friend who had seen the movie earlier told me that Cesar Montano's role, and the significance of his character Captain Pajota's heroics had been minimized.

So I was pleasantly surprised to find that "The Great Raid" is an absorbing war drama. My colleagues said they also enjoyed director **John Dahl**'s cinematic version of what is being marketed in the US as "the greatest rescue mission . . . in American history." My peers were as impressed as I was with Cesar's performance. He registers strongly onscreen. **Natalie Mendoza,** a Filipino-Australian actress who plays Mina, a member of Manila's underground movement, also makes an impact.

Incidentally, Cesar's name is tenth in the credits. The very talented **Paolo Montalban,** as Sgt. Valera, is sadly underused.

It's possible that the film was tweaked to better results from the earlier version that my friend watched. In the version that we saw, the contribution of Captain Pajota and his fellow members of the Filipino resistance to the daring rescue mission was duly acknowledged.

Welcome summer treat

No place but the Philippines itself could have provided the most authentic topography but, having said that, the production designers did their best to recreate World War II era Philippines. The sepia-like tone enhances the wartime Manila and Cabanatuan setting; this gold, burnished look also makes the actors appear like the screen greats of yesteryears. I'll leave the scholarly analysis to film critics, but I have to say that the film is a welcome treat from the summer staple passing itself off as entertainment in these hot days.

Folks, especially readers of INQ7.net in the LA area, can watch "The Great Raid" on Aug. 11 in a screening to benefit the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans Inc. More information about this special screening at the David Henry Hwang Theater by the Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (Sipa) is available at (213) 3821819, extension 123 or by e-mail at info@esipa.org.

. . .what is Cesar's

Trivia time—The production notes don't skimp on Cesar. A portion on the Boholano actor reads: ". . . is one of the Philippines' biggest stars, Cesar Montano . . . portrays the man who was able to bring Colonel Mucci and Captain Prince's danger-laden plan to reality through his knowledge of the local culture and the lay of the land. The actor was eager . . . to reveal to the world how vital the Filipino resistance fighters were in helping save American lives.

"Montano was joined by a number of other Filipino actors, including **Ebong Joson** in the role of the real-life Captain Joson. During casting, it was noted that Ebong shared his last name with the character he was auditioning for. It was only when Ebong accepted the part that he realized . . . he was playing his own grandfather."

Filipinos on the production credits are **Jun Juban** (technical advisor), **Rudy de Lara** (guerrilla technical advisor) and **Julie Reli Ysla** (casting associate).

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.)

DID YOU KNOW...

CARMINA **Villaroel** had crepes at Café Briton in Podium, Ortigas Center, with her twins **Mavey** and **Casey** and actor **Kier Legaspi,** younger brother of the kids' father, **Zoren.**

* * *

ABS-CBN stars **Jericho Rosales** and **Heart Evangelista** were seen at Haagen Dazs in Greenbelt 3 on Wednesday afternoon—feeding each other ice cream.

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Gary V. Photo courtesy of Jun De Leon

At home with Donita

From page A2-1

'Sweetheart, I miss your cooking.' I like hearing that, so I always do my best," she says.

"You want some music?" Eric chimes in from the study room where husband and wife have separate working spaces.

"I can cook anything," Donita declares. "I used to invite my friends like Ruffa (Gutierrez), Sharmaine (Arnaiz) and Alma (Concepcion) to my house in Manila. On my sixth month [of pregnancy] I stopped working. That's when I started experimenting in the kitchen.

"Lately, though, I've been cooking mainly South Beach stuff. I did South Beach diet for 10 straight days and after that cheat-cheat *na ako.* After I gave birth, I was almost 80 kg. Now, I'm like 58, 59 kg. My original weight was 54 kg."

The doting wife and mom loves to share stories about her family, too. She relates that JP likes to dance, and loves attention. He has her fingers, toes, ears, forehead, nose and lips, says Donita. "Everything else, like the hair, eyes, eyebrows and lean body type, he got from Eric."

Favorite things

Donita and Eric are committed Born-Again Christians. While they were still dating, they recounted, they put off kissing until they tied the knot on June 9, 2003 in California. Now they attend Bible study Wednesday evenings, and Tuesday is their date night.

Eric works full-time for Thumbs Up, a nonprofit organization that helps the youth to discover themselves and reach for their goals. He is in the process of putting up his own graphics design company.

Donita is the spokesperson for Thumbs Up.

"I don't like clutter," she confesses as she gives a tour of the spotless condo unit. "Almost everything here is from Ikea. We're the second tenants here. We repainted the walls and changed the lighting."

THE CHEF: "I can cook anything."

A MINIMALIST'S closet

PHOTOS BY JOCELYN VALLE

SHE NEEDS to look grown-up now.

Donita's favorite things in the house are her comforter, the couch and the beanbags where she and Eric station themselves when they play X-Box. "To illustrate how clean we are—before we go on the couch or play X Box or anything, we take a shower first. This is our sanctuary," she says.

"Clean" is the operative word when describing Villaramas' residence. Even in the storage room, things are neatly kept and labeled in boxes.

True to her minimalist approach to style these days, Donita's wardrobe is a medium-sized closet with three partitions, which she even shares with Eric!

Her shoes—all sneakers—are in a low cabinet near the front door. All her pumps and flats are in her pad in Manila.

Bye, punk

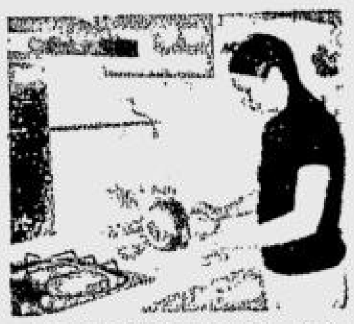
"I'm sick and tired of bringing my suitcase back and forth, so I just leave all my nice clothes [in Manila]," she says.

Now 30 but still youthful, the Fil-Am actress-host admits that she wants to be perceived as a little more serious these days, so she's trying to look a little more sophisticated. "When I look at my stuff before, I take a step back. When punk was the rage, I was punk from head to toe. Now, maybe the eyeliner and the belt *na lang.*"

Shopping? She's no longer brand-conscious. "When I walk into Prada, I think of my child's college education. All the stuff that I acquired during my MTV days are still usable, so I don't feel like I need so much. I don't have a problem with carrying around a two-year-old Gucci bag."

She loves to shop in Hong Kong during the sale season. In the States, she checks out the shops at Melrose Place. "Not Rodeo Drive," she says, "though I did use to shop there."

MOST of her MTV stuff are still "usable"



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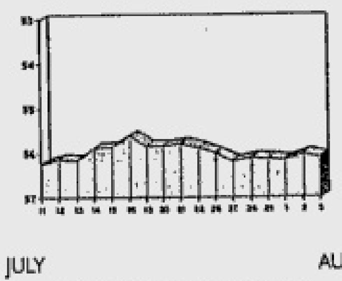

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As of 3 p.m., Aug. 4, 2005

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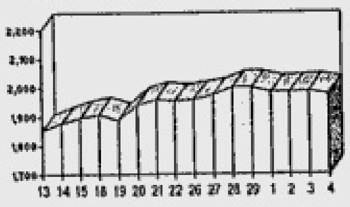
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 4, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Shares close 0.51% lower

SHARE prices yesterday closed 0.51 percent lower as the market consolidated recent gains and investors took profits, dealers said.

They said support for Philippine Long Distance Telephone after early losses when the company reported record second-quarter earnings limited the fall.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 10.14 points to 1,978.00 after trading between 1,969.13 and 1,988.14. The broader all-shares index fell 4.01 points to 1,191.41.

Volume was 562 million shares worth P1.26 billion. Losers beat gainers 37 to 34, with 43 stocks unchanged.

AFP

₱15-B 'garden city' to rise in QC

Araneta Center transformation

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY developer Megaworld Corp. and Araneta Center Inc. have signed an agreement to transform the Araneta Center into a "scenic garden city" through a P15-billion mass transport-based residential project.

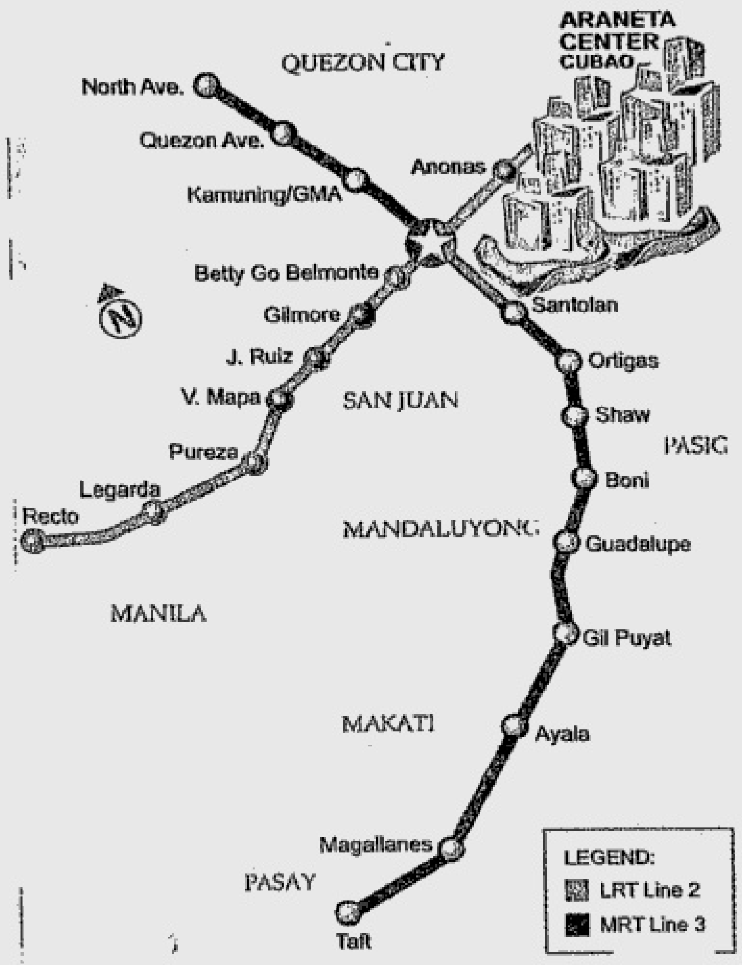
The deal was signed Wednesday night by Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan and Araneta Center chair and CEO Jorge Araneta.

Under the project, Megaworld will put up 17 buildings comprising 6,000 condominium units on a five-hectare property owned by the Araneta Group within the 35-hectare Araneta Center complex.

Most of the residential towers in the Megaworld-Araneta project will be finished in 7 years, with the rest expected to be completed in 10 years.

A focal point of the project is a three-story high garden walkway that will interconnect all the residential buildings and bring unit owners within walking distance of the MRT-3 and LRT-2 systems, which intersect on Edsa and Aurora

ARANETA/ B5



PLDT first half profit up 35%

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday said its first semester net income jumped 35 percent to P16.8 billion from P12.4 billion last year, mainly due to the strong earnings performance of its mobile business and its continuing effort to cut costs.

Without extraordinary gains from derivatives and foreign exchange booked mostly during the first quarter, PLDT's six-month profit stood at P15 billion or 9 percent more than year-ago level.

PLDT's wireless units Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. accounted for P12.5 billion and P4.6 billion, respectively, of the six-month net income.

Piltel's profit included about P600 million in currency gains, arising from the peso strengthening vis-a-vis the Japanese yen. A good portion of the company's debts were yen-denominated.

Second quarter profit reached P7.4 billion, higher that the P6.8 billion registered earlier and above market estimates of P4.6 billion to P6.75 billion.

"Despite the unsettling times, PLDT continues to show its resilience. We certainly don't expect the second half of the year to be any easier but we remain fo cused on the tasks at hand—maintaining growth in profitability," said PLDT chair

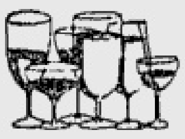
PLDT/ B5

WHAT'S INSIDE

Farmers seek to stop PNB sale /B10

Lawyers in the dock /B3

RP reduced use of ODA funds in '04 /B5



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PLDT

SC order voiding safeguard duty on cement hit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE FAIR Trade Alliance yesterday scored the Supreme Court's decision that declared as illegal the Department of Trade and Industry-imposed safeguard duty on cement imports.

FTA lead convenor Wigberto Tañada said in a telephone interview that the court might have "misread" the Safeguard Measures Act, which authorizes the trade secretary to impose protective duties when there are surges in import volumes that can cause serious injury to the local industry.

"The decision does not heed this provision and those of the Constitution that promote the use of labor and good that are available and made in the country," Tañada said.

"The ruling also does not recognize the World Trade Organization provision for such duties," he added.

The former senator said the Supreme Court's decision would adversely affect other industries and sectors, which might get the message that they could not depend on the provisions of the law.

"If this decision is not reversed, other goods, especially agriculture products, may not get (the protection) they need," he said.

Under the Safeguard Measures Act of 2000, either the secretary of trade and industry or of agriculture may impose a safeguard measure.

However, the Supreme Court said the law also provided that the Tariff Commission should first determine whether the importation in increased quantities of a certain product caused or threatened serious injury to the domestic industry.

The Supreme Court upheld a TC recommendation that said there were no such conditions threatening the local cement industry.

Tañada said FTA believed the TC recommendation "was flawed and arrived at through erroneous methodology."

OFWs and RP agriculture

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

HOW big is the connection between overseas Filipinos and Philippine agriculture?

Today, it is small but a project proposed by a Filipino businessman currently living in the United States can change that. The good news is that this project can succeed without government support, though government assistance will always be welcome.

Background

In an e-mail group last week, a La Salle alumnus wrote, "Do you know that the combined income of the Filipinos in the United States is more than the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the entire Philippines?" He said there were 1.4 million registered Filipino workers earning an average of $70,000 a year, as against the per capita GDP of about $1,000 a year for our 88 million Filipinos here.

The Commission on Overseas Filipinos said that as of December 2004, there were 2.7 million Filipinos in the United States. This makes credible the claim that there are 1.4 million workers in the United States who are earning income. This is because both man and wife in a Filipino family there are working.

If we use the same ratio that approximately half of registered overseas Filipinos are earning income, then as many as 4 million out of the 8 million overseas Filipinos are in this category. It cannot be denied that the 4 million overseas Filipinos definitely earn more than the country's entire GDP. This is where badly needed help for Philippine agriculture can come from.

Where remittances go

The Filipino businessman, who prefers to remain anonymous, said Filipinos in the United States invariably send money home, mostly to relatives. Though some of these remittances go to worthwhile causes such as tuition support, these funds are sometimes spent for unproductive activities such as gambling and drinking.

This is why many overseas Filipinos would rather contribute to productive projects. And while charitable works are liked, there is a desire to contribute to sustainable economically productive endeavors. They not only want to give fish, they also want to contribute to teaching people how to fish.

There are, however, two obstacles. First, they do not know the people who can teach their intended recipients "how to fish" or how to make a livelihood activity productive and profitable. Second, they do not personally know the recipients sponsored by the many organizations that ask for funds from them. Thus, they are reluctant to donate to these organizations.

The proposed project addresses both obstacles.

Alyansa Agrikultura

The Alyansa Agrikultura, composed of 39 national and local federations of farmers and fisherfolk in the country, is proposed to address the first obstacle. Though its members have their own outreach livelihood programs, they are limited in helping start small businesses because of lack of capital.

Going to banks is difficult because of lack of collateral, while relying on 5-6 loan sharks often means failure because of the 240-percent average annual interest rate. The funds from abroad proposed in this project will allow them to expand their program of transferring technology, ensuring markets, and generally making the livelihood projects successful.

The Alyansa Agrikultura members will provide guidance at no cost. They will even incur the obligation of helping ensure that the fund recipient gives quarterly progress reports to the donor. This has the added benefit of monitoring fund use to ensure that the funds are not used for nonproductive purposes.

The second obstacle is also addressed by this project. The overseas Filipino will identify his or her intended recipient, usually a relative. The money will go directly to him or her, provided he or she identifies the project as well as the "big brother" or "big sister" from groups like the Alyansa Agrikultura. This way, the chances of success will increase. The project can then generate income for the recipient's needs.

Forum

Already, this Filipino businessman has identified several Filipinos in the United States who want to contribute to this project. Several Alyansa Agrikultura member-organizations have likewise expressed their support.

Albert Lim, president of the National Federation of Hog Raisers Inc. with its 34 associations nationwide, said, "This will certainly help our outreach program because of the additional grant funds."

Gregorio San Diego, president of the United Broiler Raisers' Association said, "This will be an added boost to the growth of the small broiler industry, which can benefit from new players using better technology."

Arsenio Tanchuling, a convener of the Kilusang Mangingisda, said, "With this project, we can teach nontraditional technologies, such as crab fattening, seaweed culturing, and *ginamos* making."

Next Thursday, Aug. 11, the Alyansa Agrikultura is sponsoring a forum on this topic. This will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Philippine Social Science Center Conference Room on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. Interested parties in linking overseas Filipinos and Philippine agriculture may call 8516635 if they wish to attend.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

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- Ricky Fukada, Delegation Leader, Council for Better Corporate Citizenship, Japan
- Tex Gunning, Business Group President, Unilever Bestfoods Asia
- Noke Kiroyan, Non-executive Chairman, Rio Tinto Indonesia
- Dugal Muller, CEO, Oxford Index, UK
- Anita Roddick, CEO, The Body Shop, United States*
- Emil Salim, Professsor / Civic Leader, Indonesia
- Chetan Sharma, Founder & CEO, Datamation Consultants, Indonesia
- Senator Mechai Viravaidya, Founder and Chairman, PDA Thailand*

*invited

Partial List of Topics
- Aligning CSR Strategies and Core Strategies of a Corporation
- Implementing CSR Strategies thru Collaboration
- CSR Strategies for SMEs
- How the Right Strategies for CSR can make Business Effective
- Communicating and Reporting CSR Internally and Externally
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- MDG: What Business needs to know
- Business case for anti-corruption
- Women Leaders in the workplace - issues and challenges
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- CSR as a tool for managing risk
- If, Why, When and How business should get involved
- How much should a company invest in CSR and Why
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05 August 2005

Dear Stockholders:

Please be advised that the Annual Meeting of the stockholders of METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION will be held on Friday, the 12th day of August 2005, 10:00 a.m. at The Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club, No. 17 Mc Kinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City, for the following purposes:

1. To consider and approve the President's Report and the Annual Report for the year 2004.
2. To ratify all acts of the Board of Directors and Management for the year 2004.
3. To consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004 contained in the Annual Report.
4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 18th of June 2004.
5. To elect the Directors of the Company for the ensuing year.
6. To appoint external Auditors for the ensuing year.
7. To approve the Executive Stock Option Plan.
8. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and at any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on the 31st day of March 2005, as the record date for the determination of stockholder s entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Stockholders' Meeting.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO A. PICAZO
Corporate Secretary

Makati City

Lawyers in the dock

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

EQUITABLE PCI Bank has told Accralaw that it was withholding payment of "millions" in retainer fees for the alleged boorish behavior the blue-chip law firm exhibited during the last bank stockholders meeting.

The bank decision, supported by president Rene Buenaventura, was to protest Accralaw partner Romulo Espaldon Jr.'s having ordered the bank guards to eject GSIS chair Winston Garcia from the meeting.

The ejection thankfully did not happen after bank vice chair Ferdinand Martin Romualdez reminded Espaldon that he and Accralaw had been hired to represent the entire bank, not to defend the Go family interests.

It was not immediately clear whether the payment suspension meant that the bank management had also agreed to completely terminate the services of Accralaw, as the Romualdez-GSIS-SSS-led board had earlier declared.

The Equitable PCIBank fumble is the second such received by the top law firm in as many months.

Late June, Accralaw lost a Supreme Court case in behalf of its client Banque Nationale de Paris in its collection case against the ailing Proton Pilipinas/Autocorp Group.

Instead of simply depositing amended and correct filing fees, Accralaw chose to fight out the 1998 case all the way to the high tribunal, only to be rebuffed and to be told by the Third Division that indeed its client French bank had underpaid the filing fees because the clerk of court had used the wrong exchange and interest rate computation.

BNP has been trying since 1998 to collect $1.5 million plus interest from the Proton/Autocorp Group, which the latter has successfully dodged through judicial delays and legal maneuverings.

Ticked off by nicking

THE PRESIDENT of collapsed Nicphil Insurance, Emmanuel Ticzon of Urdaneta Village, is being accused by his own board of having helped himself to over P56 million in corporate funds in the last four years.

"We found out that there exists an unrecorded bank account into which unrecorded premiums are deposited and out of which unrecorded expenses and withdrawals are paid," said an audit report submitted by Nicphil chairman Jesus Jacinto Jr. and treasurer Roberto Jose Castillo.

"It appears that the liquidity problems (of Nicphil) resulted from the significant payments made to and for the expenses of the president (Ticzon)," the report added.

Ticzon, who was suspended by the Nicphil board for a month while the internal investigation was underway, is now being asked by the company to return the funds, on pain of criminal prosecution.

Because of liquidity problems, Nicphil has been unable to pay salaries on time, as well as having accumulated significant arrears on utilities, rent, and SSS premiums.

Money-go-round

- ABS-CBN said it was suing Dream Satellite not for competitive reasons, as reported here Monday, but for intellectual piracy in Dream's re-broadcasting ABS-CBN channels. "ABS-CBN, as in any other broadcast stations, owns its broadcast signal and should be sufficiently compensated if any other entity intends to broadcast the same," the Lopez network said in a statement.

According to the grapevine, GMA Network also filed a similar piracy case against Dream.

- THE CHINO Roces stretch

COCKTALES/B5

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week August 02, 2005	Last Week July 26, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.26580	1.26461
Managed Fund - Peso	1.37041	1.36738
Growth Fund - Peso	1.02581	1.02030
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1176	1.1137

* Note. These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE — UNIT PRICES (in Php)

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	August 1, 2005	July 25, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.041572	1.040436
Balanced Fund	1.030620	1.026331
Equity Fund	1.005519	0.993821

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
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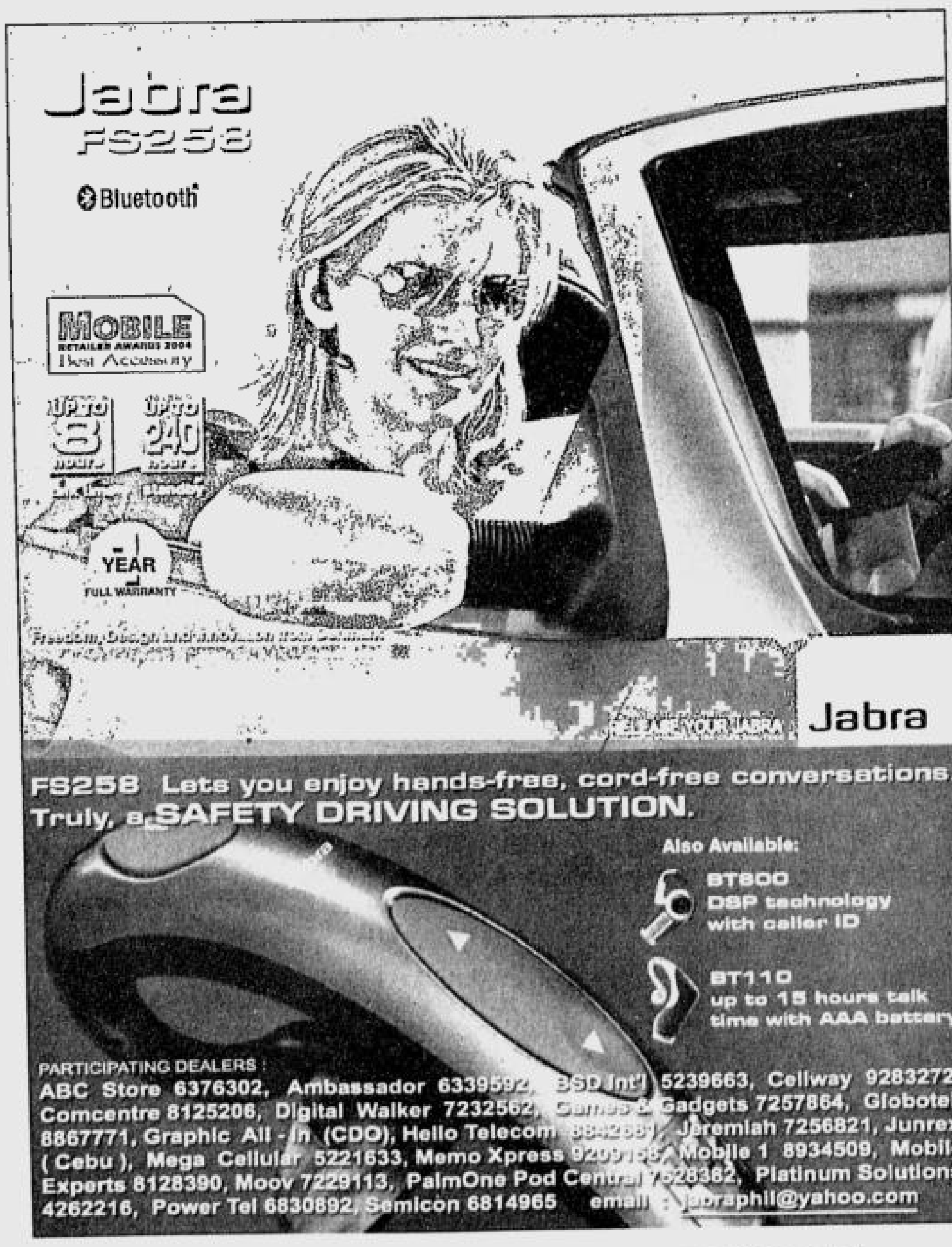
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BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

PR folks talk on regaining public trust

PR World Congress in Turkey shows loss of trust is a global crisis

By Edd Fuentes
Contributor

DO you believe our government is doing its job of serving the people? Do you trust the police? Do you have faith that the Church is truly the voice of its followers? Have your personal experiences with big companies convinced you of their honesty and trustworthiness?

Considering the current political, religious and commercial climate in the country today, one does not have to conduct a formal survey to be able to say with absolute certainty that a majority of us will answer "no" to the above questions.

We are not alone. The loss of trust is a global crisis. All over the world—in the USA, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, the UK and 25 other countries—distrust has become a universal public sentiment.

The global public does not trust their respective governments. The pristine reputation of the Church is no longer as immaculate. And the big multinational institutions who once were paragons of integrity are no longer as unshakeable. In other words, we no longer trust each other.

In fact, the erosion of trust as a global phenomenon was the focus of the recent 16th World Congress of the International Public Relations Association (Ipra), which had the theme "Communication: The Sustainable Path to Trust."

SIR Robert Worcester, Chairman of MORI Reputation Center, an image research company with the author.

Held in celebration of Ipra's 50th anniversary, the three-day congress was attended by close to 1,000 senior PR practitioners, PR agency heads, directors of communications of multinational companies, and spokespersons of governments from five continents.

CEOs of four public relations agencies in the Philippines—Joycelyn Buensalido, president of Buensalido & Associates; Renato Nieva, chair of Perceptions Inc.; Romeo Virtusio, chair of Virtusio Public Relations Inc. and Context Communications International; and Edd Fuentes, president of Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., attended the conference.

All four of us are members of Ipra, the world's largest organization of senior PR practitioners and recognized by the United Nations as a trustworthy partner. Ipra has gained its credibility by devoting much effort in supporting PR education and research, in line with its fundamental mission, which is to raise the bar of the PR profession.

Auspicious venue

Even the venue of the congress was auspicious—Istanbul being a symbol and bridge to conflict resolution and sustainable solutions via greater dialogue among diverse cultures and institutions, whether in East or West, North or South.

Why focus on trust? According to Charles van der Straten Waillet, Ipra president, this virtue is one of the cornerstones of public relations practice and the congress aimed to focus on promoting more dialogue, context, consultation and sustainable relationships in order to regain public trust.

YANNONG Zheng, Executive Vice President and Secretary-General of China International Public Relations Association (CIPRA); Rene Nieva; Charles van der Straten Waillet, President of IPRA; Romeo Virtusio; Joycelyn Buensalido.

Highlights

Among the highlights of the congress were the presentation by Sir Robert Worcester, chair of MORI Reputation Center, an image research company, entitled "What Happened to Trust?" He noted that "trust is mentioned 17 times a day in Guardian and Observer, compared to six times a week five years ago." Worcester likewise mentioned that trust is a topical issue and some companies or brands are vulnerable to public distrust.

Decline in trust is widely accepted, he said, as he presented results of a series of surveys conducted separately by US Harris International, Eurobarometer and Latinobarometro. Among the institutions indicated as objects of trust are the Church, doctors, police, business leaders, government ministers, civil servants, journalists, military and major companies.

While loss of public trust for these institutions fluctuates in Europe, there is precipitous loss of trust among Americans, particularly for the military and for major companies. In Latin America, loss of trust for the Church is most glaring.

According to Worcester, "Trust is an expectation, without guarantee, of how others will behave. Trust can't be built in a one-off spate of advertising."

In a survey conducted among 377 adults across Britain, 32 percent of the respondents cited personal experience in dealing with companies as the primary factor in building trust. Another interesting insight: Whereas, in the 80s, consumers considered quality of product/service as the most important factor in judging a company, majority of consumers today look at honesty and reputation as the most important factors in judging a company.

Regaining trust

So how does a "suspicious" organization regain public trust? Address the problem openly and effectively. Make reparations when appropriate and make an effort to re-stock the well of goodwill.

For institutions and businesses, Worcester briefly outlined the following blueprint for survival: Try to hit the issues before they hit you. Exercise corporate-speak. Get staff on board. Remember, only business can be responsible business. Finally, and the most important: create a virtuous cycle of words and actions.

Coming from a country currently embroiled in a series of political crisis where loss of trust is a central issue, the recent Ipra congress and its theme was truly meaningful for the Philippine delegation. But while the PR profession can do a lot in rebuilding public trust for the various institutions in our society, this is too big a job for this one small industry to handle. As Worcester said, we all need to open our communication lines, and only through genuine dialogue can we look forward to learning to trust each other again.

LA Finca gazebo

Creating urban living in a country setting

THE FARM country resort La Finca continues to grow as a community that urbanite lot owners and residents can escape to, and be part of whenever city life becomes too demanding. The 18-hectare, Lipa-based development combines a balance of serenity and rejuvenation as it tries to create urban living in a suburban setting.

La Finca is becoming known for its farming services as well, a feature that allows lot owners the opportunity to grow and make money from crops on their property should they decide not to build a house immediately. Those who have homes built on the lots can expect service that can make living at La Finca even more worthwhile, according to sales and marketing director Lisette Baltazar.

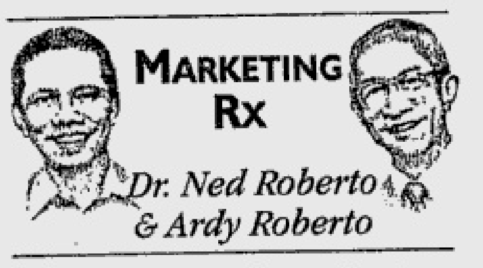
"When your house is built already, our people can help out lot owners with their house-cleaning chores for a small fee. They call us in advance and they entrust us with their keys. It's really a well-tended community. Those who want to stay over the weekend or stay overnight at their properties are assisted on their needs. They need not bring their household helps with them. Our people here are at their beck and call. We also launched the Country Club a year ago. It is for the exclusive use of the lot owners and their families. The service that comes along with it is exceptional."

Vice president for operations Ferdinand Mariano adds: "If homeowners have gatherings or parties, we have staffers who can help prepare them. We lend portable mini-gazebos and chairs. We can even help prepare their food for them, if they want."

He stresses that La Finca continuously develops and enhances facilities for the diverse community members' requirements. "To complete our amenity areas, we have plans of putting up a spa and massage comer. We're going to build a chapel for Sunday services, as well as a playground for the kids. These will cater to the homeowners' needs and enhance the development further."

For information, call 889-8588; 889-9999 or fax at 889-9062 or visit www.lafinca.com.ph.

'We can't afford advertising; what marketing strategies can we best use?'



MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Question: I am the marketing manager of a medical laboratory services (e.g. blood tests for cholesterol, hepatitis, etc.) to clinics, hospitals and the general public. We're still small but our efforts at making it big are impeded by "fly-by-night" laboratories that provide similar services with "doubtful" results. This has made it doubly hard for us to gain the respect of medical practitioners. I am not sure how to go on at this point. We can't afford advertising. So what marketing strategies can we best use to improve our image and support our marketing representatives (similar to med reps) and help them gain clients?—Jet Boiser-Rosales, American Bio-Clinical Laboratories

Answer: While your situation is very specific to the marketing of medical laboratory services, your question and confusion have universal prevalence.

We start our diagnosis with your understanding of "marketing strategies." When you preceded your question with the statement that you "can't afford advertising," that means you're starting your marketing strategizing process with the 4P's, that is, with the marketing mix. That's basically the wrong starting point.

Keep in mind marketing's most fundamental planning concept: "Never start from where you (as marketer) are; always start from where your market and consumers are." That means understand your market first.

Segment, target, position—please!

With clients and students, we summarize this strategizing process as:

"STP x 4Ps" which reads as: "STP times 4Ps." So, after you've set your tentative marketing objectives, start everything with STP. That's the segmentation process and sequence of "segmenting, targeting, and positioning." It's only after this that you should go to your 4Ps—product, pricing, promotion and placement.

STP is essentially marketing's strategy and process for understanding the consumers, of starting where those consumers are. To illustrate and lend a concrete flavor to our discussion of STP-ing your market, let's see if we can do this with the limited information you gave.

You mentioned three market segments that you're after: "clinics, hospitals and the general public." Remember our segmentation principle in Marketing 101? It says: "To successfully participate in three market segments with three different priority needs or service values, you need to have three different marketing programs or strategies each tailored to each segment's priority values."

Now, here's your next important step: after partitioning your total market into the above three segments, profile these segments. Do this by asking and finding out the answers to these questions: Who are those clinics, hospitals, consumers? What are most important about medical laboratory services to the these groups? Where are these groups sourcing these services now? How satisfied are these groups with their current source of services? Any disappointments and points of irritations and annoyances with these sources experienced by the clinics, hospitals and consumers?

You must ask and answer these starter and segment profiler questions before you think about your 4P strategies. Avoid going immediately to your 4Ps like when you immediately rejected advertising because you can't afford it. It's clear you're thinking of mass media advertising. But there's the other type: direct marketing that's much more affordable. This of course brings us to marketing mix strategies. Let's go back to the STP strategies.

As you profile your three market segments, check for two things—overlaps among them to help you decide which segment should be your primary target segment; and rate the segments according to the ease or difficulty of your accessing each.

Here's what we mean by "overlaps." Consider clinics, for example. Suppose the decision to refer patients (or consumers) to medical lab service organizations like yours is left with the clinic doctor.

Then in hospitals, suppose it depends on whether we're talking about inpatients or outpatients. For inpatients, all are referred to the hospital laboratory. For outpatients, let's say most doctors holding clinics the hospital leave it to the choice of the patient whether to have the lab tests done in the hospital lab or outside like with your company.

Segment

From the preceding, it's clear that clinics overlap with doctors treating outpatients in their clinics in the hospitals. These makes them one and the same segment.

What about the segment of consumers? It's rare to find consumers who will get medical lab services on their own. They go when their doctors tell them. So typically, consumers are not the decision makers for these medical lab tests. Their doctors are. As a segment then, these consulted doctors overlap with the clinic doctors and is absorbed by such doctors.

Your target

These overlaps tell you that your critical source of revenues is with the segment of doctors treating outpatients in clinics outside and inside hospitals. That's your primary target market (PTM) segment. It's the market segment to focus your marketing efforts on and those of your marketing reps or med reps.

Look at your second consideration for segment profiling: your segment accessing capability. For this, ask questions like: Do your med reps have the experience calling on and detailing to the doctors in the identified PTM segment? Do they have the confidence, and are they comfortable talking and bonding with these doctors?

If they are, then your company has this accessing capability. If not or you're not certain, then your PTM segment accessing capability is weak to the extent that your med reps are short of the needed experience, confidence and doctor relationship and bonding. In this case, you ought to think of the necessary training for your med reps or hire a new group with the needed qualifications.

Positioning

Finally, we arrive at the last step, the "P," in the STP process. That's positioning. There are two basic things you need to understand about your PTM doctor segment here so that you can position effectively.

First, you must know these doctors' priority values about medical lab services. That's because you don't position on something that's not important to your target market segment. You therefore must first know what are important to them.

Second, you must position in a priority value that your services will satisfy and do so better than competition. That you're better than competition is not for you to say. That's your target segment's assessment. So validate with them. Let them try and test your services and then find out.

If after the experience, they say your medical lab services are not as good as the competition's, then your services are inferior. If they say those services are just as good as competition, then your segment's positioning of your services is parity. If the segment's rating is that your services are better than competition, it is only then that you have a superior product and can claim distinctiveness or a USP (unique selling proposition).

If what you've tested already represents your best effort and your R & D cannot do any better anymore (at least under current conditions and resources), then accept the below superior ratings. Your target segment's inferior positioning of your services means you have to abort the project if only to cut losses early. Come back and relaunch later on when your R&D has succeeded in reconfiguring your services to at least attain parity assessment from your target segment.

On the other hand, if your target segment gave your services a parity positioning, and your resources cannot get you beyond that, then accept it. Leave this basic P, that is, product, and go on to your other 4Ps. You can still be a major participant in the industry or even a market leader if you are able to attain superiority in the other Ps: a superior price, or a superior promotion, or a superior service distribution and delivery.

So there you are. Here is where or "how to go on at this point." Start and do a good job first with your STP. Look again at that marketing success formula: STP x 4Ps. It says you start with the first part or left side of the multiplication, namely, STP. It also says that you have to be good at both parts, the left as well as the right side of that multiplication. If you score zero or negative in the left side (STP), then zero or negative left side times positive or high right side (4Ps) equals what? Zero/negative. Do well in your 4Ps cannot therefore compensate for a lousy or weak STP.

Send questions and feedback to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 4, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	30	30	30	35,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49.5	50	1,289,000
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	220,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	50	50.5	50	50	191,400
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	10,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	27.5	495,800
Philippine National Bank	46	46	46	46	112,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	7,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	31.5	29.5	31.5	146,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2850	2850	2850	2850	1,290
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	15,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2030	2030	1,230
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	17,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.02	0.99	1.02	8,017,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	810	805	810	80,790
Ipeople Inc.	3	3	3	3	18,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.065	0.06	0.06	83,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.96	2	1.96	2	17,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.7	2.95	2.65	2.85	10,492,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1630	1635	1620	1625	209,300
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.019	0.017	0.018	142,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15.25	14.75	15	172,500
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25.5	25	25.5	2,804,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	445,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.15	366,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.16	625,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.72	28,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.2	1,787,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	50,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	184,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.52	0.53	320,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	75,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	12,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32	31.5	32	45,500
San Miguel Corp. A	68	69.5	68	69.5	229,700
San Miguel Corp. B	99.5	100	99	100	118,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	7,000,000
Ayala Corp.	305	307.5	300	300	128,200
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.55	0.56	2,950,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.9	6,385,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10	10	10	10	1,300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.027	0.025	0.026	91,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.94	1.98	1.94	1.96	511,000
APC Group, Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	210,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	14,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	570,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.145	0.13	0.145	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.1	5,771,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.215	2,100,000
CADP Group Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	20,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	970,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.85	3,559,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	1,371,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	44	43	44	289,200
Global Equities, Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.07	1,200,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.9	0.9	310,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.4	1,932,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.8	776,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.32	1.36	7,518,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	7,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	250,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	610,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.6	970,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	218	215	216	1,163,890
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.175	5,630,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.58	97,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.0875	0.0875	1,400,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	6,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.94	2,570,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.4	982,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	1,298,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	3,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.2	8	8.2	14,191,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,030,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	5,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	4,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	631,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	700,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	4,411,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.02	1.02	0.95	0.95	1,220,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.08	1.08	0.99	1	585,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	57,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.9	145,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	9,000
Benguet Corp. B	28	28	28	28	1,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,010,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,050,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	20,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	12,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.8	1,100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	1,370,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	27.5	28	339,700
OIL					
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.75	4	3.75	3.85	871,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	1,260,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	640,000

RP cut use of ODA funds in '04

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority yesterday reported that the government's cumulative ODA commitment was cut to $10.7 billion last year from $10.9 billion in 2003.

The figure has been on a downward trend since 2001.

The country's ODA commitment—outstanding loans sourced from multilateral and bilateral creditors—was at $13.2 billion in 2001 and fell to $11.9 billion in 2002.

A decline in ODA commitment means the government paid more loans that it borrowed.

"We can't grow if we don't borrow, but at the same time we cannot borrow without regard to our fiscal limitation," said Neda Assistant Director General Rolando Tungpalan in a press briefing.

He explained that the reduction in ODA commitment was one of the government's ways of exercising fiscal prudence.

Tungpalan said the national government had also tightened the use of ODA funds by government agencies.

He said line agencies could no longer avail themselves of ODA-funded projects or programs that are not part of their budget.

Data from the Neda showed that of the $10.7-billion outstanding ODA commitment, 68 percent went to infrastructure projects.

Projects and programs related to agriculture, natural resources and agrarian reform had a 17-percent share, while those involving social reform and community development projects accounted for 8 percent.

Projects involving the industry and services sectors had a 5-percent share, while those concerning governance and institutional development accounted for 2 percent of the amount.

The Philippines' biggest sources of ODA were Japan Bank for International Cooperation, World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

JBIC accounted for the bulk, or 61 percent, of the Philippines' outstanding ODA commitment in 2004.

World Bank accounted for 13 percent, while ADB had an 11-percent share.

The remaining 15 percent came from other foreign ODA lenders.

But while the Philippine government tapped less ODA in 2004, its disbursement of available loans worsened.

The Neda reported that in 2004, the ODA disbursement rate slipped to 72 percent from 89 percent the previous year.

The 2004 disbursement rate was the lowest in four years.

The disbursement rate stood at 82 percent in 2001 and at 79 percent in 2002.

The disbursement rate measures how much of the loans were actually used by the government to undertake the supposed programs and projects as scheduled. A decline in the disbursement rate means that the government was not making the most of the ODA funds.

The Neda reported that ODA infrastructure projects completed in 2004 were the Leyte-Bohol Interconnection project, the Provincial Cities Water Supply Project IV, the Davao International Airport Development Project, and phase III of the Nationwide Air Navigation Facilities Modernization Project, among others.

PLDT first half . . .

From page B1

Manuel Pangilinan.

The strong first semester performance prompted PLDT to jack up its whole year profit target to P29 billion, from P27 billion.

Pangilinan, however, admitted that "mathematically," the company was looking at a weaker second half when the recurring profit was seen to hover around P14 billion due to various challenges that could dampen demand.

Smart and Piltel counted 20.8 million customers as of end-June, up from 20.2 million in end-March.

Pangilinan said there could be periods when there would even be a slowdown in subscriber growth as Smart and Piltel stopped the costly SIM-swap offering on May 11, bringing down its subscriber acquisition cost by 15 percent.

"We are shifting our focus from increasing subscriber number to growing revenue from the customers that we have. We want to increase their usage by offering new products, particularly entertainment," said PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno.

PLDT's revenue from operations grew by 2.9 percent in the first half to P59.52 billion from P57.84 billion year-ago. The wireless group though, managed to grow revenue by 8 percent in the first half.

P15-B 'garden . . .

From page B1

Blvd. in Cubao.

Megaworld said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that the elevated walkway would be the first of its kind in the country to incorporate garden-style landscaping.

The mass transport-based residential project, also a first in Philippine real estate, is well noted in such bustling cities as Hong Kong and Tokyo where many residential and leisure/shopping complexes were built around their major subway stations.

The LRT-2 services 11 stations along a 14-kilometer stretch from Santolan in Pasig to Recto Ave. in Manila. The MRT-3 or Metrostar, on the other hand, runs from North Ave. in Quezon City to Taft Ave. in Pasay where it is linked to the LRT-1 that runs the stretch to Monumento in Caloocan City. The LRT-2 is also linked to the LRT-1 at the Doroteo Jose station in Manila.

The two lines—MRT-3 and LRT-2—ferry an average of 1.2 million passengers a day.

"This is the first time that a residential project will offer fast and safe access to more places in Metro Manila than ever before through its strategic location and orientation to two mass transit systems," Megaworld spokesperson Francis Canuto said in the statement.

"All key points from north to south and east to west of Metro Manila along the service routes of the MRT-3 and LRT-2 lines will be just a few minutes away from the project," he said.

The Araneta Center, built by the Araneta family as the country's first leisure and lifestyle complex in the 1960s, is currently undergoing redevelopment.

The plans include new residential and office buildings to be built around the P2.5-billion Gateway Mall.

CURRENCIES

August 4, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.810570	1.000000	56.1060
Japan	Yen	0.007301	0.009007	0.5053
United Kingdom	Pound	1.440707	1.777400	99.7228
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104302	0.128677	7.2196
Switzerland	Franc	0.642799	0.793021	44.4932
Canada	Dollar	0.666313	0.822030	46.1208
Singapore	Dollar	0.490601	0.605254	33.9584
Australia	Dollar	0.624620	0.770594	43.2349
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.150167	2.652661	148.8302
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216147	0.266660	14.9612
Brunei	Dollar	0.489120	0.603427	33.8559
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000103	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019674	0.024272	1.3618
UAE	Dirham	0.220695	0.272272	15.2761
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.233700	69.2180
Argentina	Peso	0.283664	0.349956	19.6346
Brazil	Real	0.351200	0.433276	24.3094
Denmark	Kroner	0.134056	0.165385	9.2791
India	Rupee	0.018694	0.023063	1.2940
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216382	0.266951	14.9776
Mexico	New Peso	0.076650	0.094563	5.3056
New Zealand	Dollar	0.559631	0.690417	38.7365
South Africa	Rand	0.125845	0.155255	8.7107
Korea	Won	0.000797	0.000983	0.0552
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025522	0.031486	1.7666

Cocktales

From page B3

near the intersection of Don Bosco is getting to be Makati's mini-Malate. Latest addition to the night scene: Azoom, a bar owned and managed by Angie Gumabao, the favorite talent manager of Iñigo Zobel, Banco Filipino heir Albert "Bobby" Aguirre and Bingo Bonanza's Albee Benitez.

Heard through the grapevine

TOYOTA's pending orders for its hot-selling Fortuner SUV have breached 4,000. At the current importation rate of 300 units a month, that represents over 13 months' wait list.

(E-mail: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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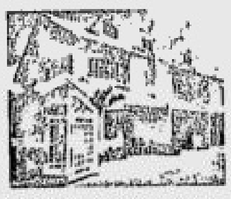

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

3-STOREY HOUSE 4 SALE 2.4M OR RENT 10T A. LINAO PACO 5237361 - HERMAN

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

2 Beach House/Lot F/Land
2 Hrs Drive fm Cebu City
White Sand nice loc 483 sqm
5BR 4T/B 673 sqm 6BRR
7TB all A/con F-Land 5.5 has
P60/sqm 032-3461711
09174804914, 09214509195
For Sale or Rent

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Terrano Prado Surf Fargo Serena Largo Delica Lite-Hi ace Safari Canter Elf etc Financing 7127539

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

CARS INT'L. RENTAL SRVS.
U-Drive Cars & Vans
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CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956•8957247

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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ABC RENT A CAR
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L300 • URVAN • REVO ETC.
AND ALL CAR BRANDS / TYPES
MLA : 536-8822 • 303-9789
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WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CAR T-8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Auto Easy 5344441

1.5% Auto Express 5221001

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748785

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 6315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

23T New Compl Sr Impid 7767507

PETS

Aszoo Dog Training 455-6212

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS VERY CUTE 09178312108

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
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wistron

***** *OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION* *****

CSD MANAGER

Qualifications:
- Male / Less than 35 years old
- Preferably can speak Chinese fluently
- A graduate of Business information
- Must have good communication skills
- Must have 5 years experience in Planning and Logistics.
- Familiar with Material Control & Planning/Problem Solving & Analysis
- Familiar with computer operation, both hard ware and soft ware.

PURCHASING DEPT. SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:
- Male / Less than 30 years old
- Preferably can speak Chinese fluently
- A graduate of Mechanical Engineering
- Must have 2 years experience in engaging notebook computer manufacturing and construction management
- Must be well experienced in coordinating with suppliers and sourcers for the shipment related problems.
- Familiar with market information and Computer Software Application

Requirements:
- ➢ Updated resume with recent photo
- ➢ Diploma/Transcript of Records
- ➢ Birth Certificate
- ➢ Employment Certificate

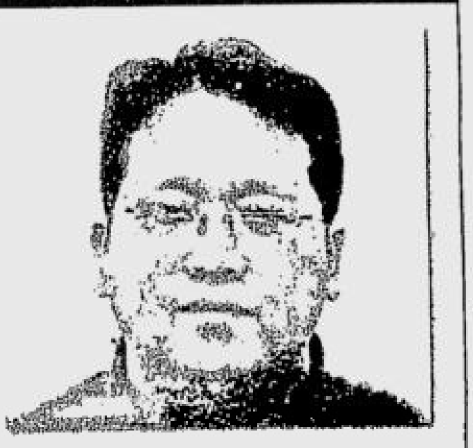
Interested applicant/s may submit their requirements at Wistron InfoComm (Philippines), Corp.*(#4 Rizal Hi-way cor. Aim High Avenue, Subic Bay Industrial Park, Phase 1, Subic Bay Freeport Zone).*

TO WORK IN RECRUITING & TRAINING DEPARTMENT

CHIEF ENGINEER

QUALIFICATIONS:
Good Moral Character
Age = below 55 yrs. old
Has sailed as Chief Engineer at least 2 years with Foreign Principal
Has worked in Manning & Recruiting Company knowledgeable about different operational/daily activities in crewing operations
Computer Literate (Operation)
Communicate in Good English
Hardworking and able to work independently
Salary - Negotiable

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



The public is hereby notified that **DELVIN JOHN S. TANHUECO**, whose photograph appears above, is no longer connected with BLUE CROSS INSURANCE, INC. or BLUE CROSS HEALTH CARE, INC. Hence, any transaction that may be entered into by him shall no longer be honored by the company.

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JOB Market

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
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& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
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BUY • SELL • PAWN
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SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

VACANT POSITION DEPED MAKATI OSEC-DECSB-TCHR T 504497-1998

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice
Notice hereby given that the estate of the late FIDELIZA LEGASPI has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs Per Doc No.94,Page No. 20,Book XV,Series of 2005 Before Notary Public Sinforosa G. Gomez Makati City
(PDI- AUg.5,12,19,2005)

Notice is given that the estate of the late spouses LUIS G. PALABRICA and ADELAIDA RECINTO-PALABRICA has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs on July 25, 2005 before Erwin M. Layug Notary public in and for Lipa City as per Doc No. 436, Page No. 87, Book No. XVI, Series of 2005
(PDI-Jul 29, Aug 5, & 12 '05)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONCIO CU has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc# 36; Page# 9; Book# XI; Series of 2005 before notary public Atty. Gavino Meneses, Jr. of Makati
(PDI-July 22, 29 & Aug. 5, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court through its Committee on Bids invites prospective bidders and authorized distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

NAME OF PROJECT : a) Office Supplies for Supreme Court
b) Hewlett Packard Toners and Inks

SEPARATE ITEMS FOR LOT BIDDING	APPROVED BUDGET	SOURCE OF FUNDING
Office Supplies for Supreme Court	P 6,935,970.525	General Appropriations Act-CY 2005
Hewlett Packard Toners and Inks	P 2,202,041.00	General Appropriations Act-CY 2005

PERIOD OF DELIVERY : Twenty (20) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

I. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

	Name of Project	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Office Supplies for Supreme Court	19 August 2005	2:00 p.m.	Session Hall, 3rd Floor Old building, Supreme Court, Taft Ave., Manila
2.	Hewlett Packard Toners and Inks	19 August 2005	3:00 p.m.	Session Hall, 3rd Floor Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Ave., Manila

II. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

	Name of Project	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Office Supplies for Supreme Court	26 August 2005	2:00 p.m.	Session Hall, 3rd Floor Old building, Supreme Court, Taft Ave., Manila
2.	Howelett Packard Toners and Inks	26 August 2005	3:00 p.m.	Session Hall, 3rd Floor Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Ave., Manila.

III. SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS

	Name of Project	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Office Supplies for Supreme Court	02 September 2005	2:00 p.m.	Session Hall, 3rd Floor Old building, Supreme Court, Taft Ave., Manila
2.	Howelett Packard Toners and Inks	02 September 2005	3:00 p.m.	Session Hall, 3rd Floor Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Ave., Manila.

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or its Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, 4th Floor Multi-Purpose Building, Supreme Court after payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) for Office Supplies and Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) for Hewlett Packard Toners and Inks.** For additional information contact the Secretary, **Atty. Ennar R.C. Cabanilla at telefax no. 5251270 or Ms. Norma C. Josue at tel no. 5266401.**

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to: 1) reject any or all bids, 2) waive any defects or informalities therein, 3) or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman

(PDI – August 5 & 12, 2005)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Lungsod ng Baguio

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROJECT CALL

The City Government of Baguio is inviting proposals for a Sanitary Landfill or a Waste to Energy Facility complaint with the following guidelines:

1. Compliance with environmental laws (RA 9003, Clean Air Act, etc.)
2. Should not require capitalization from the city government
3. Can dispose/process at least 300 tons of waste daily with minimal or zero residue and should be able to process all types of waste.
4. Technology should be able to produce other forms of energy (preferably electricity) that can be used by the city government in its current facilities and programs
5. Must have over-all socio-economic benefits such as employment generation
6. Preferably to be located in Baguio City or within 2 kilometers from the city boundary

All proposals should be supported with the following documents/information for preliminary screening:

1. Proof of compliance with environmental laws
2. Cost analysis covering the project installation and management to include the project management plan
3. Detailed technical description of the technology involved (ex. capacity, process, project location description, inputs and outputs)
4. Company profile including capitalization, registration documents and similar documents
5. Documentation of previous project areas (preferably certification and latest evaluation report from local authorities where the project is currently operating, and socio-economic benefit package already delivered)
6. Photos or other visual documentation of actual project operation.

Please submit all proposals to the HON. BAULIO D. YARANON, City Mayor, Baguio City Hall, not later than August 20, 2005. Proposals submitted after said date will no longer be entertained.

(Sgd.) BRAULIO D. YARANON
City Mayor

(PDI – August 5, 2005)

FOR SALE OR LEASE

CAINTA WHSE / FACTORY
FA: 1,800 m², LA. 3,783m²
100m fr. Ortigas, Tel lns,
5T gal H₂O Supply 3Ph Power

COMMONWEALTH - Don Mariano Marcos Ave.
nr. Batasan 630m² 12.6M,
nr. Regalado 1225m² 36M

SS-Hway Property P3.2T/m²
7.2 ha. Calamba, Laguna
adj. Fil-Est. & Science
Park acc. Sta. Lucia

CALAMBA Brgy. Real-Comm'l lot
30m away frm Crossing:
2,064m² P15T/m²

CALIFORNIA SUBD. Q.C.
1,000 m² P6T/m2

US COASTAL CITY
1,000 m2 P10T/m2

For Inquiries 913-7632/913-5223
Agents & Brokers Welcome

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Agusan del Sur

Municipality of Trento

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date : July 28, 2005
Loan No. : 4299 – PH
IFB No. : SFF-SSI-02-2005

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from *the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)* towards the cost of financing the Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the ***Rehabilitation of Farm – to – Market Road (Tudela – Sitio Gasa – Poblacion)*** in the *Municipality of Trento, Province of Agusan del Sur.*
3. Bidding documents may be purchased from **August 2, 2005 – August 29, 2005** at the **Municipality of Trento** with address at **Trento, Agusan del Sur** for a non-refundable fee of ***Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php2,500.00)*** for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after Bid Opening and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PhP100,000.00)** in the form of bank guarantee and shall be delivered to the **Bids and Awards Committee, Municipality of Trento** – on or before **August 30, 2005, 10:00 am**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 17, 2005; 10:00 am** at the ***Mayor's Office, Municipality of Trento, Agusan del Sur.***
6. The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which may found disadvantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **NOEL P. CUEVAS**
Municipal Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Aug. 5, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SPOUSES AVELINA MANALO SEVILLA AND FRANCISCO L. SEVILLA has been extrajudicially settled by and among their surviving heirs in an instrument acknowledged before Notary Public Esperanza Gilera Aclan (Doc. No. 4348,Page No. 71, Book No. IX) on July 23,2005 at Mabini,Batangas,Philippines.
(PDI July 29 & August 5, 12,2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that LTO Confirmation Certificate No. 4207182 received Aug 6,2001 issued to PCSO was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI - August 5, 2005

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN P160T WEEKLY 09208692102 / 09283214829

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RTW CONSIGN 09178830002

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M/F Not More Than 35 Y.O. Coll Grad w/ or w/o Sales Exp. M. Mla Only 0918-9202703

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Invitation to Submit Grant Applications in response to PRISM's Annual Program Statement

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) project is calling for the submission of applications in response to the issuance of an **Annual Program Statement (APS) on the Expansion of Family Planning Services In The Private Sector.**

Who we are

PRISM is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under contract number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International Inc.

Our mission

Through this APS, PRISM aims to generate innovative yet practical approaches to expand provision of family planning services in the private-sector setting.

How to apply

1. Download the full APS document from http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMGrants/
2. Submit a Grant Concept Summary between **August 19, 2005** to **August 30, 2006**. PRISM will evaluate grant concept summaries and pre-screen potential grant candidates. Applicants whose grant concept summaries are accepted will be notified in writing and requested to submit a full grant application. Grant concepts submitted on or before 5 pm of **August 19, 2005** will be included in the first round of pre-screening.

Who are eligible to apply

- Non-government organizations
- Private sector organizations which maybe for-profit or not-for-profit whose area of work is related to the achievement of the objectives of this APS.

If you need further details

Please attend the initial Grant Applicants' Conference scheduled on **August 9, 2005 at 10 am**. Henceforth and until June 2006, a Grant Applicants' Conference concerning this APS will be held every month. The schedule will be announced through the PRISM Grants Yahoo Group. The Conference will be held at the PRISM office located at 23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, F. Ortigas Ave (formerly Emerald Avenue), Ortigas Center. Telephone inquiries will not be entertained. For further inquiries, please email Ces Pangilinan, Senior Grants Manager at email address: grants@prism.org.ph

(PDI – August 5 & 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Agusan del Sur

Municipality of Trento

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date : July 28, 2005
Loan No. : 4299 – PH
IFB No. : SFF-SSI-01-2005

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from *the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)* towards the cost of financing the Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the ***Construction of Farm – to – Market Road (Sitio Gasa – Sitio Magading – Basa Proper)*** in the *Municipality of Trento, Province of Agusan del Sur.*
3. Bidding documents may be purchased from **August 2, 2005 – August 29, 2005** at the **Municipality of Trento** with address at **Trento, Agusan del Sur** for a non-refundable fee of ***Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00)*** for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after Bid Opening and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PhP200,000.00)** in the form of bank guarantee and shall be delivered to the **Bids and Awards Committee, Municipality of Trento** – on or before **August 30, 2005, 10:00 am**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 17, 2005; 10:00 am** at the ***Mayor's Office, Municipality of Trento, Agusan del Sur.***
6. The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which may found disadvantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **NOEL P. CUEVAS**
Municipal Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Aug. 5, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SURPLUS BUNKER-C AND OTHER JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : August 23, 2005, 2:00 p.m., Solarium Hall, Bldg.-1 Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC stations.

SCHEDULE - I

	Item Description and Location		Minimum Bid Price
1.	Surplus Bunker-C (dead stock volume) located at Manila Thermal Power Plant Tank Nos. 2, 3 and 4. The sale includes the clean up to Tank Nos. 2, 3 and 4 to make the tanks suitable for "black product".	P	2,941,000.00/lot
2.	Contaminated Surplus Diesel and Bunker-C sludge oil at Aplaya DPP Tank Nos. HFO-1, 2, 3, and LFO Jasaan, Misamis Oriental. The sale includes the clean up of tanks to make the tanks suitable for "black product". Note: **Participating bidders must be DENR accredited waste oil Processors/Treators**	P	4,765,801.65/lot

SCHEDULE - II

1.	One (1) lot of junk station batteries, Al-Cd and Ni-Cd, 157 pcs. located at Pantabangan Hydro-Electric Power Plant.	P	15,700.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot turbine oil and transformer oil (9 drums and 17 drums respectively) located at Pantabangan Hydro-Electric Power Plant, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija Note: **Participating Bidders must be DENR accredited waste Oil transporter and treater for oils and industrial batteries.**	P	37,500.00/lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.**
2. **LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY) OF THE BIDDER**
3. **TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (VALID UP TO THE DATE OF BIDDING)**

INTERESTED PARTY WHO WISH TO SECURE BID FORM MUST PRESENT VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. Alfonso D. Alday, Manager, Warehousing, Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 922-8431. **Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 p.m. August 22, 2005.**

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI - August 4, 5 & 6, 2005)

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JOB Market

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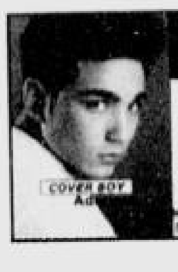

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2nd Floor, 3160 Alcar Building,
Magsaysay Boulevard Sta. Mesa, Manila
NSO Census, near LRT Pureza Station)

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Request for Submission of Applications

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under contract number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International Inc., is soliciting applications from qualified non-government and/or private sector organizations for the:

Local Manufacture of Medium/Low Priced Hormonal Contraceptive Brands in the Philippines RFA number: 2005-02-02

Grant funding will be provided to a successful applicant in accordance with standard USAID policies.

This solicitation is open to pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, non-government organizations as well as private sector for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Specific eligibility requirements are indicated in the Request for Application (RFA) document.

Applicants interested in getting the full details of this solicitation can download the full document in PDF format from the PRISM Grants Yahoo Group (http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMGrants/)

The closing date for the submission of applications is on September 19, 2005 at 5 pm.

Grant Applicants' Conference is scheduled on August 19, 2005 at 10 am. The Conference will be held at the PRISM office located at 23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, F. Ortigas Ave (formerly Emerald Avenue), Ortigas Center.

Telephone inquiries regarding the solicitation will not be entertained. For questions please email Ces Pangilinan, Senior Grants Manager at email address: grants@prism.org.ph

(PDI – August 5 & 7, 2005)

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"On firm grounds, moving forward"

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District invites bidders to submit sealed bids for the procurement of three thousand (3,000) ½" Ø water meters as per the required specifications indicated in the bid documents to be secured from the Baguio Water District.

Interested accredited suppliers may obtain bid documents from the BAC-In house Secretariat, Baguio Water District, BWD Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City after payment of a non-refundable fee of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) during office hours from 22 to 24 August 2005. For those who are interested but are not yet accredited by the Baguio Water District, you are requested to secure accredited forms from the BWD BAC Secretariat during office hours from 8 to 19 August 2005, upon payment of a non-refundable accreditation fee of P500.00.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on 29 August 2005 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the BWD Training Room, BWD Compound, Baguio City. Deadline for the submission of bids is on 12 September 2005, on or before 12:00 o'clock noon. Opening of Envelope A of eligible bidders shall follow at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

The bidder or his/her authorized representative shall personally submit all requirements insofar as the latter is authorized through a Special Power of Attorney.

The BAC-In house shall determine the eligibility of a prospective bidder using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

The BWD reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract as provided for under the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

For further information, inquiries may be coursed through the BAC-In House Secretariat at the aforementioned address at telephone numbers (074) 444-7245.

(Sgd.) Atty. Ma. Luisa C. Tenedero
Chairman, BWD BAC-In House

(PDI–August 5 & 12, 2005)

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"We Serve"

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the implementation of quarterly **MAINTENANCE SERVICES** for all generator sets of the Baguio Water District.

Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification and bid documents from the BAC-In house Secretariat, Baguio Water District, BWD Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City after payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00) during office hours from 8 to 12 August 2005.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents and bids shall be on 29 August 2005, on or before 12:00 o'clock noon. Opening and evaluation of the eligibility documents shall follow at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

The bidder or his/her authorized representative shall personally submit all requirements insofar as the latter is authorized through a Special Power of Attorney.

The BAC-In house shall determine the eligibility of a prospective bidder using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

The BWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract as provided for under the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

For further information, inquiries may be coursed through the BAC-In House Secretariat at the aforementioned address at telephone numbers (074) 444-7245.

(Sgd.) Atty. Ma. Luisa C. Tenedero
Chairman, BWD BAC-In House

(PDI–July 29 & Aug. 5, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
National Capital Judicial Region
Branch 69, Pasig City

In the matter of the Adoption of Minor
LADY AVEGAIL GELLADO AGUDERA
with Application for Declaration as
Abandoned Child.

JDRC No. 6853

SPOUSES JEFFERY E. GUEVARA
and EVELYN A. GUEVARA, petitioners
x---x

ORDER

This refers to a verified petition for the adoption of minor Lady Avegail Gellado Agudera filed by petitioners Sps. Jeffery E. Guevara and Evelyn A. Guevara, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered to the effect that the minor be freed from all legal obligations of obedience and maintenance with respect to her natural parents, and be, for all legal intents and purposes, the child of petitioners, and be issued a new Certificate of Birth.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the initial hearing of this petition be set on August 24, 2005 at 8:30 in the morning to be held at the 2nd Floor, Room 205, Justice Hall Building, Rizal Provincial Capitol Compound, Pasig City.

Let this order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the region and elected by raffle under the supervision of the Executive Judge.

Furnish the OSG, petitioners and their counsel a copy of this order.

SO ORDERED.

July 13, 2005
Pasig City, Metro Manila

(Sgd) LORIFEL LACAP PAHIMNA
Judge

(PDI- August 5, 12, 19, 2005)

EYE REFRACTION!

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911-27-13

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
Number 2005-025

Subject: **VOLUNTARY AMNESTY PROGRAM FOR CONVERSION OF SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE TO REGULAR PUBLIC UTILITY BUS SERVICE**

On 12 May 2005, the Board Issued Memorandum Circular 2005-015 allowing the voluntary conversion of Tourist Service Bus units to Regular Airconditioned Public Utility Bus (PUB) Service. The issuance of the said Circular emanated from the study conducted by the DOTC-LTFRB Technical Working Group that a number of tourist buses were deployed and operated to service regular PUB Aircon Service routes.

Through the request of some shuttle service operators, another route study was conducted by the Planning Division of this Board with the same findings that shuttle buses are also operated as regular PUB Service. Such operations of the shuttle buses contravene the terms and conditions of their issued Certificates of Public Convenience (CPC).

In order to legitimize the operations of the said Certificates vis-a-vis the promotion of interest of the riding public, a Voluntary Amnesty Program for Conversion was recommended. Thus, pursuant to Department Order No. 2005-010 setting forth the Policy Guidelines on the Exercise of Authority and Functions by this Board and empowering it to issue Memorandum Circulars governing the powers and functions provided for in Section 5 of EO 202, the Board hereby issues the Amnesty Program for Conversion of Shuttle Bus Service to Regular Public Utility Bus Airconditioned Service, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Only CPC holders of both Shuttle Bus Service and Regular PUB Airconditioned Service are qualified to avail of the Voluntary Amnesty Program
2. The qualified Shuttle Bus Service operators shall only be allowed to apply for routes authorized under their existing and valid Regular PUB Aircon CPC, subject to availability of Route Measured Capacity (RMC) allocation. However, should the applied RMC be inadequate, a second route option may be submitted by the applicant for Board's consideration.
3. An Amnesty Fee for Conversion in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP100,000.00) per unit shall be paid upon filing of the Application for Voluntary Conversion, which amount does not include the regular fees and charges of the Board.
4. In case of any Opposition filed to the Application for Amnesty, the Board shall adopt a summary proceeding by directing the parties concerned to file their respective Position Paper within an inextendible period of ten (10) days from the date of hearing of the said Application. Thereafter, the case shall submitted for resolution.
5. The qualified operators shall not be allowed to apply for a new CPC for Shuttle Bus Service within five (5) years from the date of the approval of the Application.
6. No Applications for Dropping and Substitution of Unit, and Sale and Transfer of the approved Applicants for Voluntary Conversion shall be allowed within one (1) year from grant thereof.
7. The qualified operators are given until 20 September 2005 from effectivity of this Circular to avail of the Voluntary Amnesty Program.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect fifteen (15) days following the filing of three (3) copies hereof with the UP Law Center, pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 11, dated 09 October 1992.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. August 03, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

FELIX S. RACADIO
Board Member

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
Number 2005-026

Subject: **DEFERMENT AND AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR 2005-013**

In the interest of public service and after consultations with the representatives of the transport groups, the Board hereby defers the implementation of Memorandum Circular No. 2005-013 (Re: Submission of Tax Clearance instead of Income Tax Returns), dated 09 May 2005, and reinstates the provisions of Memorandum Circular No. 2004-038 (Re: Submission of Income Tax Returns), dated 19 November 2004 so as to give all operators additional time to reconcile their tax payments and to coordinate tax payment procedures with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The penalty set forth in MC No. 2004-038 is reduced from One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00) to Five Hundred Pesos (PhP500.00). Further, the aforementioned provisions shall only be applicable up to 31 March 2006.

By 01 April 2006, MC No. 2005-013 shall be reinstated.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately following the filing of three (3) copies hereof with the UP Law Center, pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 11, dated 09 October 1992.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. August 04, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

FELIX S. RACADIO
Board Member

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

(PDI - Aug. 5, 2005)

2nd Silent Film Festival at SM

AFTER the success of the country's first silent film festival last year, the Goethe Institut Manila and The Podium present the 2nd Silent Film Festival ongoing this August. Featuring the unusual mix of German classic films and live scoring by some of the country's top contemporary artists, the festival is also in cooperation with SM Cinema, Smart Communications, and NU 107.

The 2005 edition of the festival will feature the works of renowned German director Fritz Lang, who is best known for his 1927 science fiction masterpiece "Metropolis". Born in Vienna, Austria in 1890, he started working in the German film industry in 1918, but being half-Jewish, he later fled to the United States to escape the Nazis in 1932.

He has made more than 30 films in Germany and the United States. It is interesting to note that Lang also directed the very first German sound film "M". One of his later Hollywood films "American Guerilla in the Philippines/I Shall Return" was filmed on location in the Philippines in 1950.

The festival unreeled at The Podium on Aug. 2 with an opening reception and preview from an excerpt from "Metropolis". Full screenings will run on all Thursdays of August at the SM Megamall Cinema 6 at 8 p.m. Admission is free and on a first-come-first-served basis.

"Metropolis" was featured Aug. 4, "Spies" on Aug. 11, "Dr. Mabuse, the Gambler Part 1: A Portrait of Our Time," on Aug. 18, and "Destiny" on Aug. 25.

"Metropolis", perhaps the most famous and influential of all silent films, was scored live by avant-garde electronic group Rubber, Inc.

The sound of silence continues on Aug. 11 with "Spies", accompanied by blues-funk maestro Sammy Asuncion. "Spies" is considered a forerunner of Hitchcock's British period thrillers and the James Bond movies.

The country's premier saxophonist Tots Tolentino and outstanding jazz group Buhay will score "Dr. Mabuse, the Gambler, Part 1". The 1922 film, which is part of a two-part adventure-thriller, is a portrait of German society at the depth of postwar inflation of the 1920s. It chronicles the adventures of Dr. Mabuse, a criminal who constantly reinvents his own identity in order to manipulate the destiny of others.

Capping the festival is "Destiny" (1921), with live scoring by new age folk rock chanteuse Cynthia Alexander on Aug. 25. Inspired by a childhood dream of Lang, "Destiny" was the first film to gain him recognition across Europe. The film is a fantasy-allegory set in three historical periods-ancient Baghdad, 17th century Venice, and Imperial China. The themes of fate and timing transcend space and time as a girl pleads with Death for the return of her beloved. She then strikes a bargain-if she can save any one of the three persons whose lives are about to expire, her beloved will be restored.

Seminars on investing in real estate

ARE REAL properties good investment? Is investing in real estate not too complicated to learn? What are the risks involved in investing in real estate?

In addition to the above, there are other numerous questions concerning prospective real estate investors, financiers and developers; owners and realty professionals that could be answered in a series of lectures on "Investing in Real Estate" that will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the 2nd floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

This lecture series would initiate participants to the ABCs of real estate investing and avoid costly mistakes that are usually suffered by erring investors and guide them to a pleasant and successful real estate business.

The topics, which may be attended separately and are all stand-alone are: Aug 22 - Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What are Needed to Learn before Investing; Aug 24 - Property Development and HLURB Rules And Regulations; Aug 29 - Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects; Aug 31 - Management of Rental Properties; Sep. 5 - How to Start and Manage A Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company; Sep. 7 - Making Big Money in Distressed Properties; Sep. 12 - Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis; Sep. 14 - Mathematics of Real Estate Investment; Sep. 19 - Installment Sales: All you need to know; Sep. 21 - How tos of Real Property Valuation; Sep. 26 - Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Contract Documentation and Registration; Sep. 28 - Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Real Property Assessment.

This Lecture Series is accredited by DTI for CEP compliance and will have as lecturer lawyer Dennis Tablizo, noted resource speaker on land laws and engineer Enrico Cruz, who has more than 35 years in real estate, engineering, construction, management and education. Cruz is also a licensed real estate consultant and 1st and 8th placer in the real estate appraiser's and broker's board examinations respectively. He was invested as a "Real Estate Fellow" by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For other details and advance registration, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or 0916-4269174, or by e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

BPI renews ties with remittance agencies in the Middle East

THIS year's "Kumustahan sa Middle East" has touched a different chord to Filipinos working abroad as well as to the Filipino organizations and companies supporting them, one of which is the Bank of Philippine Islands. More than the entertainment provided by Filipino artists like the Apo Hiking Society, Nanette Inventor, Geneva Cruz and veteran broadcaster Angelique Lazo, the event was a well-anticipated reunion of Expat Pinoys working in the Middle East.

BPI roving managing director in the Middle East Emmanuel Choco relates, "The staging of 'Kumustahan sa Middle East' was one of high excitement as expat Pinoys arrived from different places. It was in this beautiful setting that they met again their new and old friends."

A gathering of kababayans, even the simplest of events, is an exciting occasion that many Filipinos look forward to. How much more for a grand celebration that has brought to them various benefits and opportunities like the products and services offered by BPI Express Remit's Expat Pinoys program.

BPI's presence in the "Kumustahan sa Middle East" reestablished ties with its partners like the recruitment agencies. Through their partnership with BPI, recruitment agencies can easily set up their systems and are able to help expat Pinoys find a convenient way to send remittances to their families left in the country. With BPI Express Remit, expat Pinoys are assured that their families receive their remittances in real time in a secure and fast fashion.

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TV GUIDE

30's
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ABC
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WOW mali mo Mali!
NGAYONG SATURDAY 9PM

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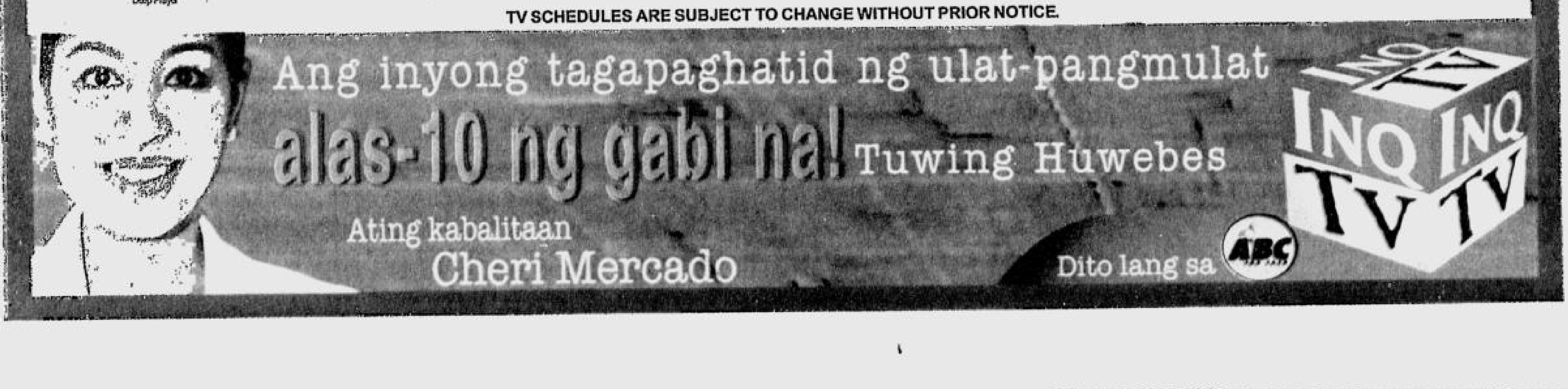
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN						Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	24			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Global Hoops				Sentro	Aliw Awards					Big News	Real Stories		ESPN Golf: Kraft Nabisco Championship	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Friends	Shaman King	Full Metal Alchemist	Full House		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Krusada Kontra Kamen		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Temptation Island 3		The OC		Newswatch Now	South Border		Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		MTV		Sports Express	Boxing		King Of Adventure		IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23						X-Men Evolution	Spiderman	The Batman	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines			MTV Get Spotted			Hangin Out at MTV				MTV Play								MTV Play	
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Remakes	My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Solar Sports		TV Shopping		FIVB Montreux '05 Volley Masters				GWS					Sports Desk	Spike TV's NBA Rookies		ATP Swedish Open '05			
Sports Plus				Tour De France Highlights		Ford Senior Player C'ship Highlights			World's Greatest Auto Shows		Tour De France	Monster Jam		FMX		Inside the PGA			
Cinemax			Rebel Without A Cause (3:45 PM)				Invisible The Chronicles Of Benjamin Knight			Trucks (7:15 PM)				National Security			Flatliners		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Judging Amy		Murder Without Conviction			Wife Swap (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Ant Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Dinosaurs			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Moms On Strike	
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery				Monster Garage		American Chopper						Crime Night	
National Geographic						Frontline Diaries		Wildlife Detectives	Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge			About Asia		National Geographic Specials					
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Antonia Part 2	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia									
AXN		Sniper 2				Worst Case Scenario		PSI Factor (Season III)		Beastmaster		WRC 2005: Rally XS	E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)		Once A Thief			
JackTV	The Sib Show	Samurai Jack	The Batman	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show						Worst Case Scenario	
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			The Remains Of The Day				A Promise Kept (5:45 PM)				Once Upon A Time In Mexico			Back To The Future				Tears Of The Sun (10:55PM)	
Star Movies				Odd Girl Out (4:15 PM)				Evel Knievel (5:50 PM)			Brave New Girl (7:25 PM)			Jeepers Creepers 2			Hannibal (10:45PM)		
EWTN	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Angel Force	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Theology Of The Body	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Miracles Of The Cross	EWTN Bookmark	Backstage	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of Catholic Church	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
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ROSALINO P. TAN

of Tanauan, Batangas

peacefully joined our Lord
on August 1, 2005 at the age 49.

He is survived by his parents **Petty** and **Norberto** (†); common-law wife **Connie**; siblings **Grace, Vicky, Boy, Lorna & Vivian**; son **Byron**; nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Memorial Chapels in Magallanes, Makati City.

Interment will be at Tanauan Municipal Cemetery on Sunday, August 7, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Magallanes.

Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. ESTER T. AGAY

of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro

Peacefully joined our Lord last Wednesday, August 3, 2005.

Her bereaved parents **Laudelino** (†) and **Consuelo** (†); sisters, brothers and their spouses: **Conchita** (†) and **Espilo** (†), **Lydia** and **Oscar** (†); **Milagros, Ramon** (†) and **Ma. Lourdes, Lourdes** and **Ric, Rogelio** (†) and **Milagros, Iraida** and **Francisco** (†), **Januario** (†) and **Cecilia, Agerico** and **Aurora Luisa**, nephews and nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at 4 Joaquin St., T.S. Cruz Subdivision, Baesa, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches on August 10, 2005 after the 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish Church, Mindanao Avenue, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

RUBEN ENRIQUEZ ATACADOR

peacefully joined his Creator on August 4, 2005
at the age of 69.

His bereaved sisters, **Norma, Cely, Charito, Nicet, Josie, Carmelita** and **Carol** and all other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor of Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 07, 2005 at 2:00 in the afternoon at Santuario de San Antonio Church.

In Loving Remembrance of

PONCIANO C. MARQUEZ

NOVEMBER 19, 1920 – AUGUST 5, 2004

On the first anniversary of his death,
the Marquez Family is offering Holy Masses
on Friday, August 5, 2005, at the following Churches:

St. Andrew Cathedral
La Huerta, Parañaque City

Parish Church of the Resurrection
Phase I, BF Homes, Parañaque City

Presentation of the Child Jesus
Aguirre Avenue, Phase III, BF Homes , Parañaque City

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish,
Asuncion St., Malate, Manila

"At the end of life, we shall not be asked how much pleasure we had in it, but how much we gave; not how happy we were, but how helpful we were; not how ambition was gratified, but how in love we served".

ERRATUM

The obituary of CATALINA RUEDA MERCADO, published in Philippine Daily Inquirer, August 03, 2005 should have read...

Peacefully joined our Creator and
her husband, Jose M. Mercado, Sr.
on Saturday, the **30th of July 2005**
at the age of 84.

Our apologies to the bereaved.
The Management & Staff
PUBLICIS DIALOG
Better Marketing Options

PLARIDEL BANZON DIZON

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 4, 2005.

His loving wife **VIOLETA G. DIZON**; children **ARLEEN & NOEL, MONICA & RAYMUND**, and grandchildren **MONIQUE, MICHAEL CONRAD & AUDREY VIAN**, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at St. Joseph Chapel at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel on Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on August 9, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Chapel.

CLASSIFIEDS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP)** invites Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the **Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Consultancy Services** for the proposed Space Rationalization, Planning and Furniture Standardization Project of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Main Complex.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is **P11.0 Million.**

The scope of the work includes among others the preparation of a space rationalization program based on the proper zoning of all BSP Main Complex departments and offices to be able to consolidate these into 1 or 2 buildings taking into consideration security and parking requirements and the new BSP Organizational Structure; the space planning and all related engineering works for the implementation of the Space Rationalization program of all BSP departments and offices including the preparation of plans, specifications and cost estimates for all necessary office relocation and renovation works; and the design and preparation of the technical specifications and layout of standard furniture for the BSP.

The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

1.0 The firm must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation).

2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation) Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Consultancy services, at least five (5) completed projects of similar nature like offices, banks, exchanges and financial institutions of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for at least three (3) of the required five (5) projects.

3.0 The Principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect with at least twenty (20) years experience in architectural design and coordinating team efforts in A & E design.

4.0 The key personnel should be Registered Architect/s, Interior Designer/s and Engineer/s with at least fifteen (15) years design experience.

5.0 The firm (partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by a Filipino citizen. (Foreign consultants must be registered with SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines.

6.0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement shall be required. The joint venture must have rendered A and E design Consultancy Services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

7.0 For those firms with previous or current Design Consultancy Services with the BSP, a certificate of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank must be submitted.

The **quality-cost** based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service requirement.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on **July 26 to August 08, 2005** for a non-refundable fee of P200.00, Room 204 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 4:30 p.m. on **August 15, 2005.**

The provisions of **Republic Act No. 9184** and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–July 25 & August 5, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Fifth Judicial Region
Branch 40
Date, Camarines Norte

EDITA L. YULIP,
Petitioner
- versus -
IAN E. YULIP,
Respondent
x - - - - - - - - x

CIVIL CASE NO. 7496
For : Declaration of Nullity of Marriage

ORDER

Finding the motion for leave to cause summons by publication filed by petitioner's counsel to be meritorious and well taken, same is hereby GRANTED.

Petitioner is a resident of No. 593 Curil Street, Barangay Camambugan, Daet, Camarines Norte whereas; respondent is a resident of Barangay Tulay na Lupa, Labo, Camarines Norte. The parties were legally married on September 30, 1987 at Daet, Camarines Norte and begot two (2) children namely: Karl John L. Yulip, 13 ½ years old and Karen Joy L. Yulip, 9 ½ years old. They have not entered into any kind of marriage settlement, but, petitioner acquired a parcel of land at Mambiga,Daet, Camarines Norte covered by TCT No. T-30628. Respondent is suffering from psychological incapacity which disorder was existing at the time of the celebration of the marriage but became manifest only after the marriage as exhibited to wit: Before their marriage, respondent maintained intimate relationship with other women. When petitioner discovered it, she broke up with him but unable to bear the situation, respondent attempted to take his life by drinking insecticide (baygon insect killer). Anxious that he might do it again, petitioner reconciled with him. Even after their marriage, respondent continued his womanizing and worst, he was using marijuana considering his unusual, ostensibly bizarre and sickening behavior. In fact, sometime in 1989, respondent even offered herein petitioner to his barkada to satisfy his sexual desire, fortunately, petitioner was awakened and shouted for help. In May 1991, respondent went to Bahrain to work, but he seldom sent money. Petitioner learned later that he had already living in with her concubine in Bahrain. Concerned for the sake and well-being of their children, respondent severed his relationship with his concubine and they decide to live together again. In April 1995, respondent left for Kuwait. For the last five (5) months petitioner's letter to respondent remained unanswered. She inquired from respondent's relative his whereabouts but the same yielded negative results. From the time he left for Kuwait, petitioner never saw him again so she decided to file a case for Declaration of Presumptive Death in May 1992. However, news from his parents that respondent is still very much alive so she decided to withdraw the petition which led to its dismissal in January 2004 Petitioner later on learned why he did himself for a long time is that respondent had contracted a second marriage with a woman abroad. With the foregoing, respondent's actions are clear indications of his psychological incapacity to perform marital obligations. Petitioner is now making an application for provision of support pendent elite in favor of their two (2) children in the amount of Php 20,000.00 a month. Petitioner prayed that their marriage be declared as null and void and the amount of Php 20,000.00 a month be given to their children as final support.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Sec. 14 Rule 14 of the Rules of Civil Procedure, let summons upon respondent Ian E. Yulip be effected by publication once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines at the expense of the petitioner. The aforesaid respondent is directed to answer within thirty (30) days from the last issue of the publication.

SO ORDERED.

Given this 27th day of July 2005 at Daet, Camarines Norte.

ORIGINAL SIGNED
ROLANDO M. PANGANIBAN
Presiding Judge

(PDI – August 5 & 12, 2005)

MANILA GAS CORPORATION (MGC)
INTER-ISLAND GAS SERVICES INC. (IIGSI)

INVITATION TO PUBLIC BIDDING

MGC/IIGSI offers for sale through sealed public bidding on August 24, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, the following real estate properties:

1. ***Paco Properties***

The North Property is located at Sanciangco St., Paco, Manila and is composed of 3 contiguous lots:

TCT – 34304	–	2,608.20 sqm
TCT – 33924	–	2,231.40
TCT – 33924	–	7,431.20
		12,270.80 sqm

The South Property is located at 1536 Paz Guazon St., Paco, Manila and is composed of 5 contiguous lots:

TCT – 39480	–	536.80 sqm
TCT – 39482	–	2,239.00
TCT – 39482	–	1,727.73
TCT – 25165	–	502.00
TCT – 25165	–	34,990.00
		39,995.53 sqm

2. ***Cebu Property***

The Cebu Property is located along the Barangay Road, Barangay Opao, Mandaue City and is composed ot 2 adjoining lots:

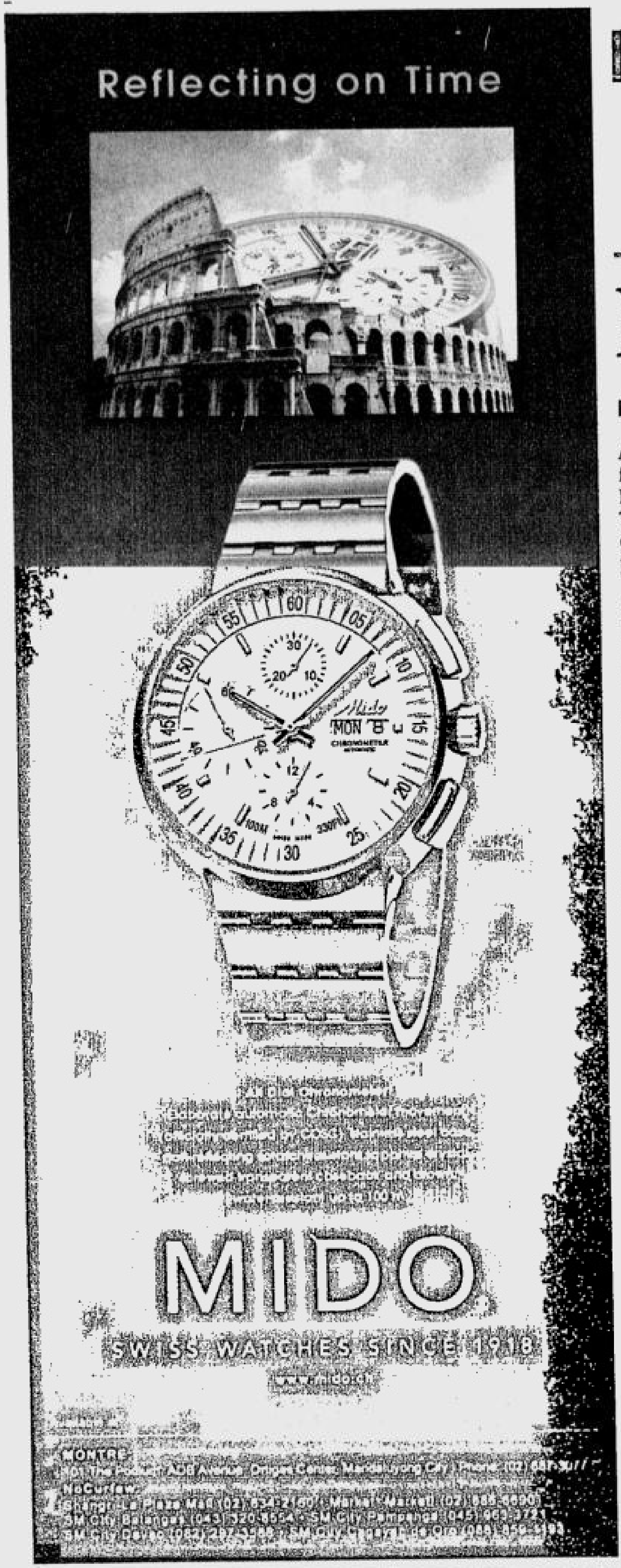
TCT – 18998	–	2,128.00 sqm
TCT – 18999	–	9,529.00
		11,657.00 sqm

Due diligence period is from August 03-23, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to be coordinated with the MGC/IIGSI Bids Committee. Interested parties may secure the Bidding Package starting August 03, 2005 from MGC c/o Ms. Ellen Paracale, 7/F NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Tel. No. 8404838 loc. 223 & 313 / Fax No. 8404862 and IIGSI c/o Mr. Charlie Villegas, 3215 District 5 Sangi, Barangay Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City. Tel. No. 032-3418874. A pre-bidding conference is scheduled on August 15, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

The sale of the above properties shall be strictly on CASH-AS-IS WHERE-IS BASIS.

MGC/IIGSI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive any of the formalities required, or to accept only such bids or portion of bids which is deemed advantageous to MGC/IIGSI.

(PDI – August 3, 4 & 5, 2005)



Farmers seek to stop PNB sale

By Doris C. Dumlao

A GROUP of sugar producers and farmers from Bacolod have asked Finance Secretary Margarito Teves to stop the Aug. 12 auction of the controlling stake in Philippine National Bank.

The sugar farmers fear that if the bidding were to push through, about P15 to P20 billion in potential windfall from old sugar crop loans would be lost.

The group "Planters Against the Plunder of the Sugar Industry (Papsi)" urged Teves to look into the deals that would allow the PNB to buy back by 2013 over 4,000 collateralized loans to sugar farmers.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in 1991 turned over the loans under a dacion en pago (payment in kind) arrangement with then PNB-Republic Bank (PNB-RB).

Daniel Hagad, the group's legal counsel, yesterday explained that the' sugar loan receivables were valued by the BSP at a collateral price—representing discounted value plus accrued interests—of only P3 billion. But the farm lands backing the loans, which could be as many as 74,000 hectares, would be worth much more.

Whether partially collected or foreclosed, Hagad estimated that the understated sugar loan portfolio could be worth anywhere between P15 to P20 billion.

This meant that whoever would end up with the controlling stake in PNB—Hagad said it would likely be taipan Lucio Tan—would get the "scandalous" benefits from these loans at the expense of the battered sugar industry.

PNB is thus significantly undervalued at the price the government is currently willing to sell, he said, since the bank cannot as yet book the sugar loans as assets, recognizing them as contingent accounts.

With Charter change, RP may expect $5B in direct foreign investments

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES can attract as much as $5 billion in additional foreign direct investments every year and may even compete head on with its neighboring countries if it will amend the Constitution.

Bernardo Villegas, economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), said the restrictive economic provisions of the Constitution are a major reason why the country has been lagging behind its foreign counterparts in the area of attracting investments.

"We can easily achieve $3 billion to $5 billion worth of investments (every year), the average in the region, if we would open up," he said during a briefing yesterday.

He suggested removing the constitutional provision disallowing foreigners from investing in education, among other industries.

Villegas said that the policy is "very backward," given that other Southeast Asian nations are inviting Western educational institutions, such as Harvard, to invest in their countries and develop their educational systems.

The economist said several industries have the potential of growing exponentially if the Philippines would liberalize. He is in favor of allowing 100-percent foreign ownership of businesses and land in the Philippines.

"For many years we have been obsessed with protecting white elephants in the name of false nationalism," Villegas said.

He added the Philippines should take advantage of renewed calls for Charter change, which have mounted amid the lingering political problem, by pushing not only for amendments of political provisions, but also of economic ones.

Villegas enumerated a number of industries that have the potential of booming given a welcoming business environment. These include tourism, food and agribusiness, logistics, retirement villages, mining, education, and wellness, health and beauty services, among others.

BSP wants to sweeten bank mergers

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas wants to keep the local banking. arena lucrative for mergers and acquisitions, and officials are now toying with the idea of rewarding "good" banks the license to open new branches.

At present, banks are prohibited from opening up fresh branches.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. on Wednesday night told reporters at the opening of Citibank Savings' first branch on Ayala Avenue that he wanted to see additional consolidations, following the Bank of the Philippine Islands's P6.1-billion buyout of Prudential Bank.

Tetangco wants fewer but stronger banks. He also wants to consider partially lifting the moratorium on new branch licenses imposed by his predecessor Rafael Buenaventura.

The moratorium has so far been effective in encouraging banks to grow further by speeding up their expansion through acquisitions.

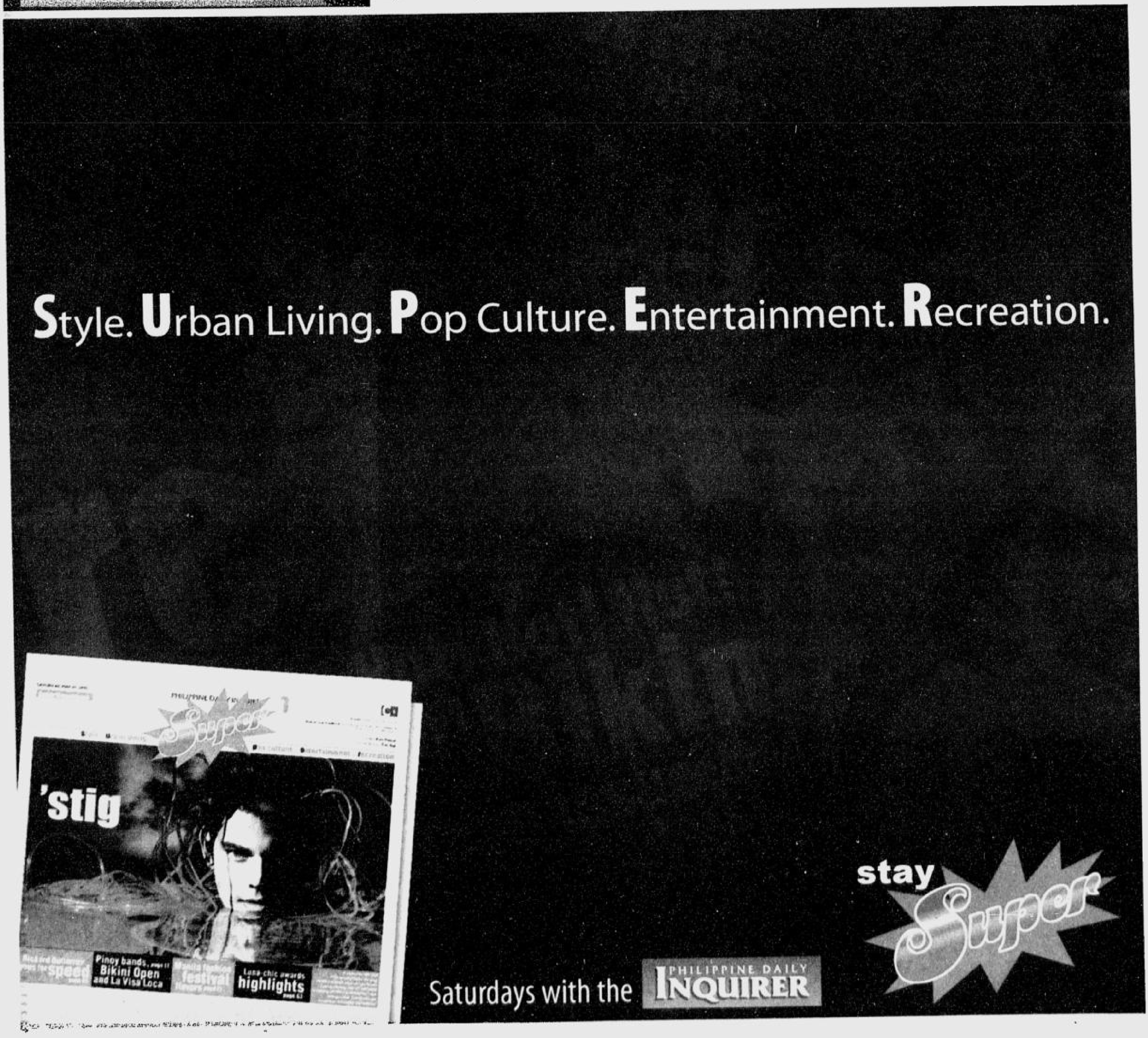
"We'll have to balance that (benefits of moratorium on branching) with the consideration that well-run and well-capitalized banks should be given some flexibility to improve their operations and offer more services to their clients," Tetangco said. "But there's no decision yet."

Tetangco preferred that the banking consolidation process occur through voluntary market decisions rather than through the far more painful and costly involuntary process.

He said banks need not wait for a crisis to act.

"Mergers will allow banks to either maintain or improve their position in the market," he said.

Analysts have predicted a new round of mergers in the banking industry. *Doris C. Dumlao*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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

DELICIOUS scents
/C4

Magic in tin cans

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

EVERY DAY, the Badgers of New Hampshire, USA, are flooded with grateful e-mails, calls and snail mail.

A Cirque Du Soleil couple who needed to treat their hands calloused by trapeze bars, a crew member of the NY Rangers Hockey Team whose hands, sore from sharpening skates all day and unpacking equipment at 3 a.m. in 20° below temperatures, were saved by Badger Healing Balm; a caregiver to severely emotionally disturbed children who began using the Sleep Balm with the kids and saw dramatic improvement in their sleeping habits; a traveler who took along a tin of the anti-bug balm on a safari to Southern Africa to keep away flying insects and malaria-carrying mosquitoes—these happy people and more all rave about products from W.S. Badger, the company that has been giving the world a dose of natural remedies from tins of fine balms and potions for over 10 years now.

All-natural

Their story began with Badger Bill, a man who has spent most of his life working as a carpenter. In the winter of 1993, he walked

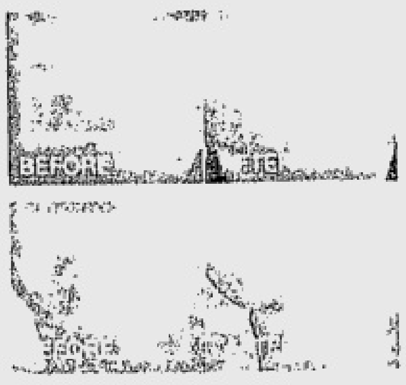
MAGIC/ C2

They can heal your skin, make you sleep, help you breathe, ease your aches, soothe your burns. Who knew balms had this much power?

BADGER®
net wt .75 oz 21 g
LIP & BODY BALM
HIGHLAND MINT
TOTALLY GOOD! ·
LAVENDER AND ORANGE
BADGER
0% NATURAL LIP CARE

TWO times two. Lip and Body Balm in two forms and two flavors—Highland Mint and Lavender and Orange

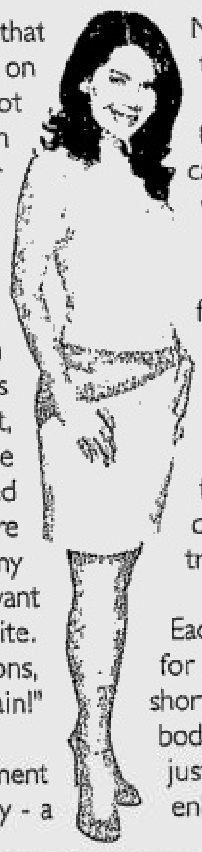
SURRENDER TO Cellulite?
Not with **VelaSmooth** to the Rescue!



So you've given up on the battle against stubborn cellulite? The rigid diet and exercise didn't work. Creams and gels didn't deliver their promise. While liposuction is too drastic and invasive. Well, don't despair because the end to all your troubles is here. Marie France's VelaSmooth is proven to smoothen-out ugly cellulite and re-shape your body.

Cellulite is that spongy, shadowy, lumpy fat build-up that resembles an "orange peel" and usually accumulates on our thighs, upper back or buttocks. You say it's not supposed to be there but the reality is - most women have it, whatever their age may be - and the older you get, the harder it seems to get rid of it. A sad fact but surely not hopeless.

Marie France's introduction of VelaSmooth has done a lot of difference for many women who've tried it and now attest to its effectiveness. One very impressed client, Carmi Martin, recounts, "I noticed that people tend to think that actors are not supposed to age, get fat or something. This certain pressure on us to stay sexy made me unable to join my friends at the beach one time because I didn't want to wear swimsuits that would expose my cellulite. But thanks to VelaSmooth, after only a few sessions, my cellulite is gone and my tummy is flat again!"



VelaSmooth is the latest, non-invasive slimming treatment that uses Electro-Optical Synergy (ELOS) technology - a combination of infrared light and radio frequency together with skin contouring action - that smoothens wrinkled areas of the skin where fat is trapped (cellulite). Consequently, it also produces a visibly shapelier body contour.

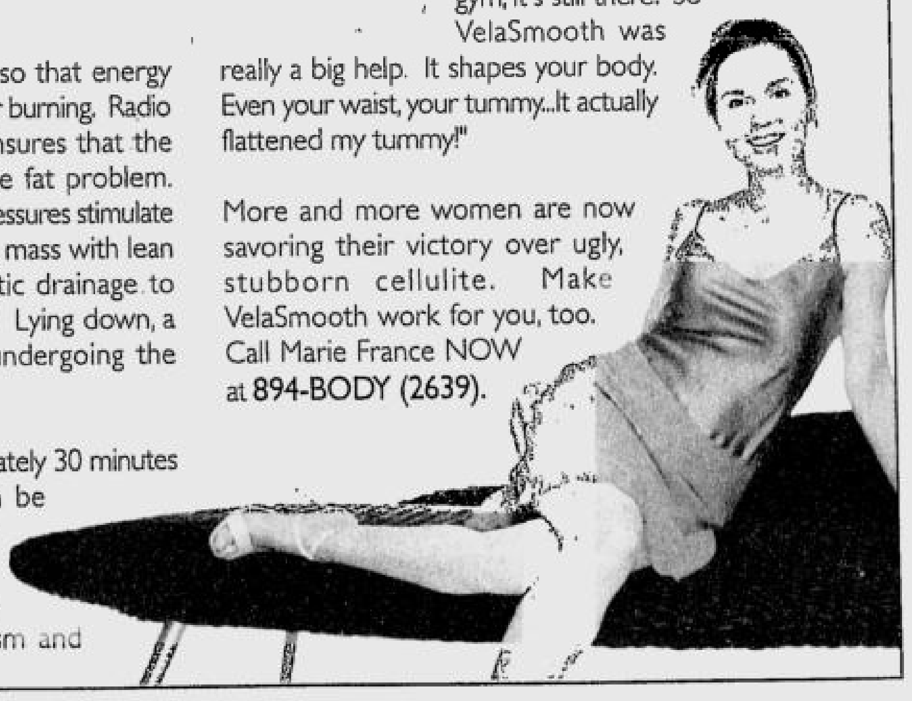
According to Dr. Ariel Torres of Marie France, "ELOS technology uses infrared light to activate the release of catecholamine enzymes; which increase circulation in the treated areas so that energy stored in fat would be available for burning. Radio frequency, on the other hand, ensures that the infrared is concentrated on the fat problem. Lastly, the positive and negative pressures stimulate connective tissues to replace fat mass with lean mass. It also improves lymphatic drainage to further promote fat metabolism. Lying down, a client can actually relax while undergoing the treatment."

Each relaxing session takes approximately 30 minutes for the whole body, though it can be shorter or longer, depending on the body surface area of the client. Even just one treatment will already enhance the body's fat metabolism and lymphatic drainage of trapped fat. However, you need multiple treatments to continuously boost the process and produce significant results.

"After only 2 or 3 treatments, my thighs had firmed up!"

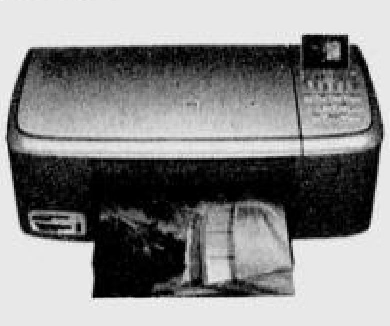
Another very satisfied client, Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez attests, "After only my second or third treatment, I noticed that my thighs firmed up. I thought maybe I was just imagining it. But I really looked at it, and it's really firmed up! I was so happy because after having two babies, sometimes even if you've slimmed down, there are still some areas that are a bit jiggly, which you need to firm up. Cellulite here and there...and even if you go to the gym, it's still there. So VelaSmooth was really a big help. It shapes your body. Even your waist, your tummy...It actually flattened my tummy!"

More and more women are now savoring their victory over ugly, stubborn cellulite. Make VelaSmooth work for you, too. Call Marie France NOW at **894-BODY (2639).**

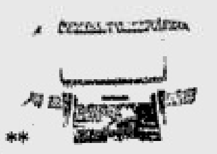


Get Fit with HP!

Get a limited edition gym bag, a massage from Body Care, or a 2 week trial pass at Fitness First when you buy any of these HP printers.



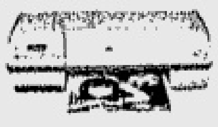
PSC 2355** P 13,290
- Printer, scanner, copier
- Print and copy at up to 23 ppm (black) or 18ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 / HP Photoret 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
- 1.8" LCD screen colour graphics display
- Multi-slot memory card reader



OJ 4255** P 8,990
- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Print and copy at up to 17 ppm (black) or 12ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 / HP Photoret 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
- Scan up to 600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution / 36-bit

OJ 5510** P 11,690
- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Up to 4800-optimised dpi colour printing and laser quality text
- Print and copy at up to 17 ppm (black) or 12ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 colour layering technology

OJ 7210*** P 19,890
- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Print and copy at up to 30 ppm (black) or 20ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 / HP Photoret 4 (with optional 6-ink colour printing)
- Memory card capability
- Built-in networking (802.3 ethernet network capability)



PS 7450** P 5,990
- VERSATILE Everyday Printer - document / photo printing
- Fast printing speed at 18ppm black or 14ppm color
- HP Photoret 4 Color Layering Technology (6 ink color printing)
- 4800-optimised dpi
- Multi-slot memory card reader (CF1, CF2, Smart Media, Memory Stick, Secure Digital / MMC and xD-Picture Card)

PS 8450*** P 19,190
- Studio quality 8-ink color printing
- 4800 optimised dpi
- Borderless panorama photo printing
- Fast printing speed at 20ppm black
- Multi-slot memory card reader
- Optional BLUETOOTH connectivity (via bluetooth adapter)

Promo Details
1. The "Get fit with HP" promotion will run from June 1 to August 15, 2005. Redemption will be until October 15, 2005.
2. To avail of the promotion, consumers need to purchase any of the following printers DJ5740, DJ6540, OJ4255, OJ5510, PSC2355, OJ7210, PS325, PS7450, PS8450 from any participating HP reseller.
3. Consumers get a free gym bag with a purchase of either the DJ5740, DJ6540, OJ7210 or PS8450. The Gym bag will be bundled with the printer box and can be availed of at the time of purchase.
4. Consumers get either a free massage session or a 2 week trial membership from Fitness First with the purchase of either the OJ4255, OJ5510, PSC2355, OJ7210, PS325, PS7450, PS8450. Consumers are only entitled to choose either the free massage session worth or the free 2 week trial membership.
5. Consumers need to present a duly-filled up sticker/info sheet, cut out from the printer box along with the sales invoice and a valid ID to any Fitness First Club (Ayala, Fort, Ortigas, [illegible], Robinson's Metro East, Robinson's Place Manila, Alabang, Greenhills, ABS-CBN, and Ayala Center Cebu) to avail of the free 2 week trial membership or free massage.
a. Fitness First will issue a two-week trial membership coupon to the consumer upon presentation of required documents.
b. The two-week trial membership will expire 14 days after first usage.
c. The free massage can be availed only upon prior appointment with any Fitness First branch.
6. This promotion can not to be used in conjunction with other running HP promotions.

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LAMCO · WTI

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3101, Series of 2005

Magic in tin cans

into his kitchen to make balm for his cracked fingers. This became the first batch of what is now known as Badger Healing Balm.

The balm, which contains organic extra virgin olive oil, beeswax, castor oil and aloe vera extracts, has since treated the weathered skin of many people around the world—including limbers, river rafters and weight lifters. have even claimed that the Healing Balm helped heal their eczema and psoriasis.

oon, Badger Bill worked with more all-natural and organic ingredients to develop ot products—many of which were inspired by people in his life.

Like the Winter Wonder Balm, which is based on a formula he made to help his daughter Rebecca feel relief from a sinus condition. The balm, which contains tea tree, eucalyptus, peppermint and thyme, can help people deal with coughs, colds and stuffy noses when rubbed on the chest or mixed with hot water and breathed in.

Badger Bill created the Evolving Body Balm upon his wife's request for "something to keep your skin healthy as you change and evolve." He set to work on what he now refers to as "Wrinkle, Shrinkle and Crinkle Care"—a balm rich in rose hip, sea buckthorn berry and calendula—all of which are known to help heal and restore stressed and damaged skin. Women have been using Badger Evolving Body Balm under the eyes, as nightly facials and to help prevent wrinkles and even stretch marks during pregnancy.

WRINKLE, Shrinkle, Crinkle Care. Set of Evolving Body Balm and Evolving Body Massage Oil

The Sleep Balm, a natural sleep enhancer that Badger Bill says was an accidental discovery, remains one of the most popular products of this line. Badger Bill had set out to create a "Sore Mind Balm" to help clear one's thoughts in the middle of the day, but those who received samples from him kept saying it helped them sleep.

Since that "accident," many people have fallen in love with the balm. It doesn't really make you sleepy—instead, the aroma of lavender, ginger, bergamot and rosemary helps clear the mind, letting the body drift off to sleep naturally. Many people claim they bring tins of the product when they travel, to help them battle the evils of jet lag.

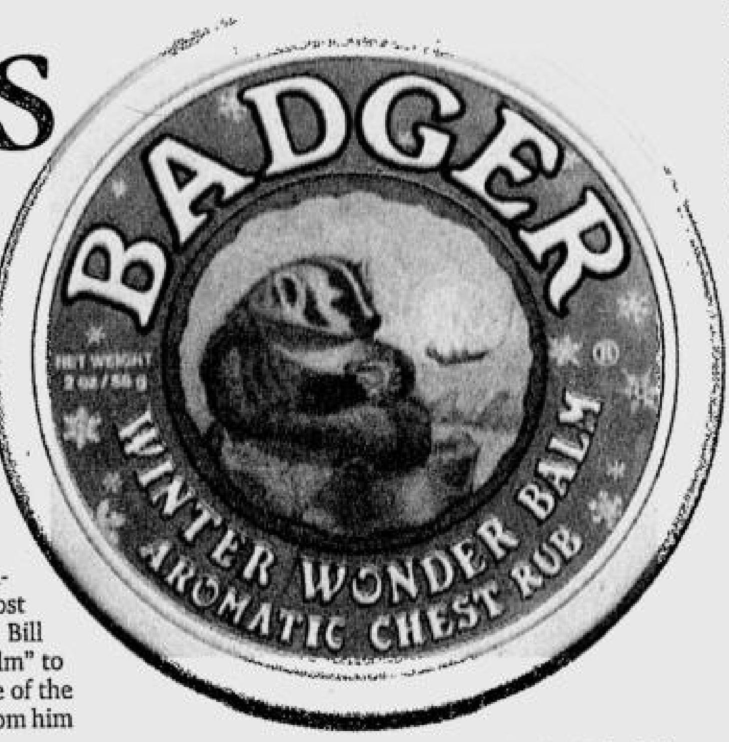
Pleasant smell

The Anti-Bug Balm is another product that has a lot of fans. Citronella, cedar, lemongrass, rosemary and geranium oil keep the insects at bay and at the same time leave the skin soft and pleasant-smelling.

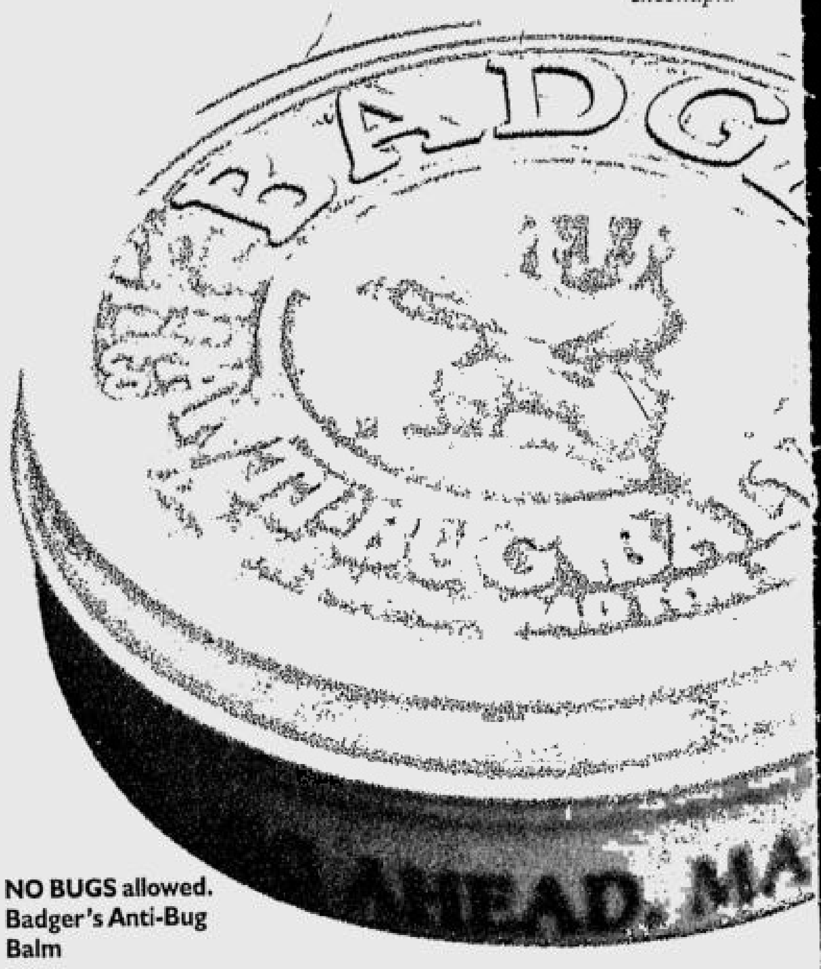
The Sore Muscle Rub is a pain-relieving balm that utilizes the anti-inflammatory properties of cayenne and ginger. Athletes and people living an active life use the balm to keep their muscles and joints warm and loose. Even martial arts experts have expressed delight over the effects of this balm. Reports say this balm has also helped arthritis patients, while some women have claimed it can help ease the pain of menstrual cramps.

There are other Badger products like the Baby Balm (the answer to diaper rash, according to a lot of moms) and massage oil and balm sets and sets of three balms that come in pretty boxes. In the Philippines, the bestsellers are the Sleep Balm, the Sore Muscle Rub, the Anti-Bug Balm and the Healing Balm.

As if the great testimonials and the all-natural ingredients are not enough reasons to stock up on these products, like many do, Badger gives back to the world in more ways than just



MINTY goodness. Badger's Winter Wonder Balm helps fight against coughs, colds and stuffy noses.


NO BUGS allowed. Badger's Anti-Bug Balm

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gain," it does not test on ani-
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nals because some loyal fans
used Winter Wonder Balm to
breathe and sleep easier,
Bug Balm on horses' ears and
s away.
ıt to remember that Badger
a substitute for medicine, al-
nhance your body's own abil-

ts are available at Rustan's Es-
s come in .75- and 2-oz tins.
balm.com

author at ppastor@inquir-

Sore Muscle Rub
Healing Balm
Sleep Balm
BADGER

TRIPLE treat. Set of three Badger Balms—Sore Muscle Rub, Healing Balm and Sleep Balm—in a pretty gift box.

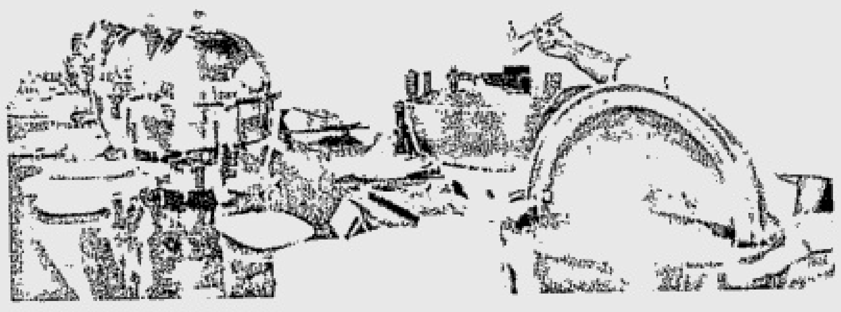
Salon's new address

FRENCH-TRAINED hairstylist Deo BC is relocating his salon to a new venue at Unit 2B Valuepoint Building, 227 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

With its well-trained staff, Deo's new salon, which recently opened, will provide better service to its clients. The interiors are designed for functionality and ease of movement.

Almost three years down the road, Deo has gained a loyal following in the hairstyling business. He believes that the secret to success is not by simply making a customer look ravishing, but also in the sincerity and dedication of the hairstylist to his craft.

To this end, learning is a continuous process for Deo. By the end of the month, he will be in New York to attend a "Freedom Cutting Seminar" at the Wella Studios. That can only mean more ways to beauty and pampering at Deo BC Salon.



UNSUI
Japanese Restaurant

Sunday Lunch Buffet

P 750.00 ++ per Adult
P 390.00 ++ for children
12 years & below.

Unsui Japanese Restaurant offers a buffet every Sunday lunch with a wide selection of Japanese dishes from Sashimi, Sushi, Tempura and Teppanyaki.The whole family will definitely enjoy this treat.

Highly refined Japanese cuisine with that contemporary touch. An expression of choice traditions and practices that make for a truly enchanting Japanese experience only at Unsui!

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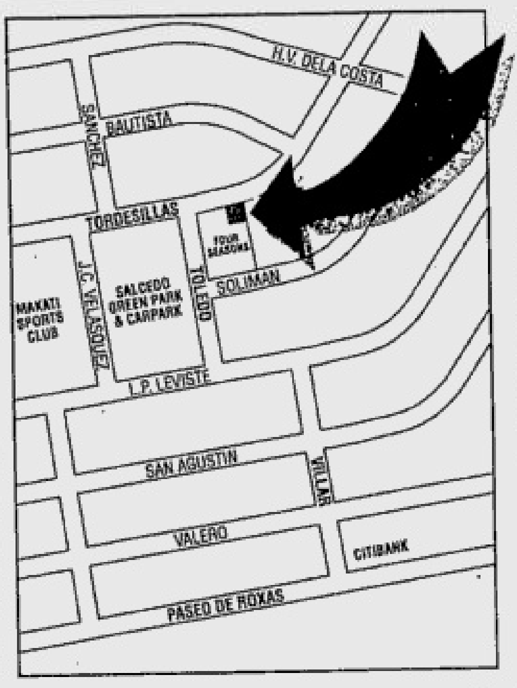

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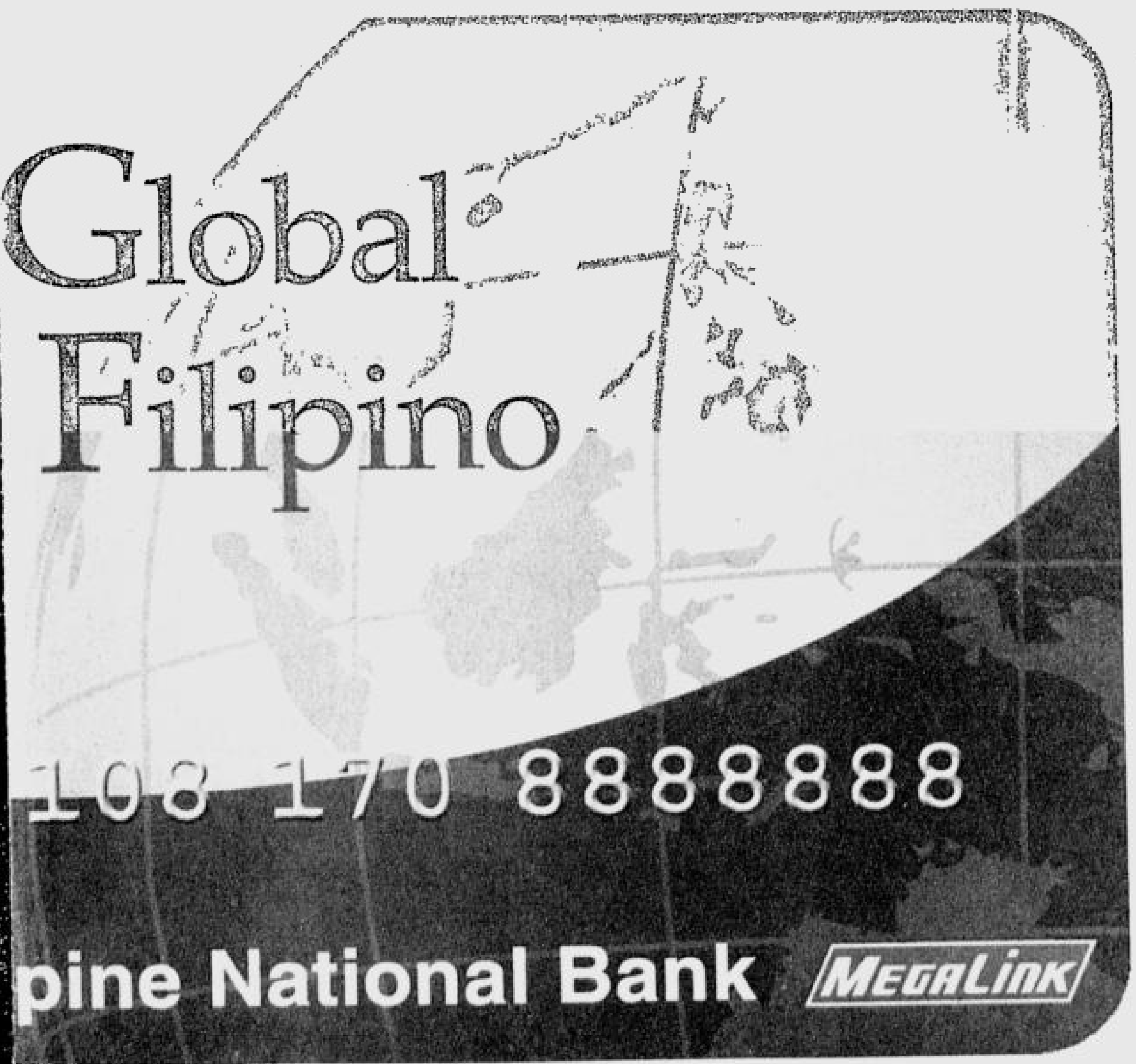

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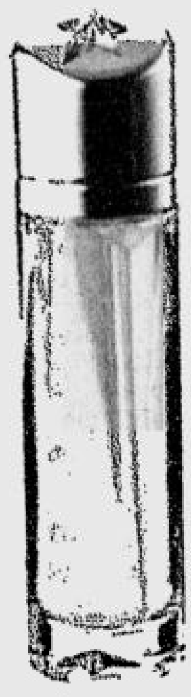


ANGEL Innocent has honey, almond, mandarin and amber.

COMPTOIR Sud Pacifique's Vanille Abricot

THE RAINY season signals the end of the sweltering heat of summer. I am particularly excited about this because I can again change my very fresh fragrance selection in favor of the rich edible creamy notes of gourmand scents which I am obsessed with. Gourmand fragrances, with their strong vanilla notes, have become a category on their own. Cosmetic companies have sat up and taken notice so that there has emerged a booming business for fragrance and body lines.

Thierry Mugler: Since it emerged in the early '90s, Angel has become a consistent bestseller even in the tropics like the Philippines. I found it strong even for a gourmand fanatic so I was glad when Angel Innocent was recently launched at Rustan's. Innocent has the delicious smell of chocolate, vanilla and mandarin like its older sister Angel but without the patchouli. Innocent is also known as "Angel Light," which is designed to be worn during daytime. One spritz per pulse point lasts half the day so only one reapplication is needed if you want it on the whole day. Wake up the next day and you can still smell it on your bare skin. Very faint but addicting! I find that when I apply the Innocent delicate body milk on my body I don't even need to reapply as the scent lasts till evening and wafts on till the morning after. Tip: If you want to increase lasting power further, go splurge on the shower gel. My wallet was crying out for mercy, though, so I looked for an alternative shower gel. It mixes well with the Body Shop's Passion Fruit or Mango Shower gel. Feel free to also try Lolita Lempicka parfum.

L'OCCITANE Almond Indulgence Collection

Almond is another scent that makes my mouth water. The scents I highly recommend are L'Artisan Jour De Fete (P4,995/100 ml) and (P2,995/50 ml) and L'Occitane Amande Blossom Dew; both are sugary almond scents that remind me of English afternoon tea pastries.

Burberry Brit is as bolder, more womanly almond-and-amber combination for her who is not afraid to be noticed. For the bath and body line, L'Occitane has outdone itself with its Amande collection. The best sellers are the shower oil (like cleansing oil for the body), body scrub paste and firming cream. The shaping gel (P2,250) for fighting cellulite is the latest popular addition to the Amande family. Those who want their almonds less sugary will love Korres Bitter Almond shower gel (P495) and body lotion.

If you are a hard-core bakery scents fanatic, it has got to be Laura Mercier for you. Laura has taken her love for the aroma of French Patisserie a whole step farther. It does not have a matching perfume or eau de toilette. Perhaps, this is because Laura Mercier found that there are a lot of fragrances out there but there's a lack of products in the home, bath and body range. Her Crème Brulée line of body wash, scrub and soap, as well as her Body Soufflé, are for the true fanatics. Those who fancy liquor with their sweets will get a kick out of the Spiced Honey range, which I swear must be spiked with bourbon or brandy. A cheaper alternative is Silk Soufflé by Nikali (P1,100), available at any Belo clinic, which is just as potent at less than half the price—think cream puff batter! Call the hotline at 8442939.

Anything but plain vanilla: The base of all things gourmand is vanilla. What used to be described as basic, boring or plain has been found to be the secret elixir of sexy and comfort rolled into one.

L'Occitane Vanilla Orchid has combined the classic allure of orchid and the comfort and sensuality of vanilla. More than the fragrance, what appeals to me are the body crème and shower gel when used together.

Comptoir Sud Pacifique's Vanille Abricot and Vanille are two of the truest and purest of vanillas that one cannot help but sniff over and over.

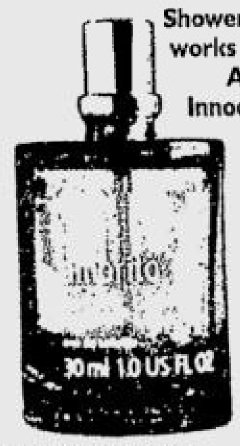
MAC MV1, 2 and 3 are vanilla-based scents that are mixed with popular perfume bases. MV1 is floral, MV2 is lemon and lavender bourbon, and MV3 is leather and spices.

True vanilla need not be expensive—drop by the Body Shop and check out the Amorito and Vanilla fragrances. Amorito is even sweeter than classic vanilla as it seems caramel is added to the mix. Instead of the matching shower gel try it with the milk body wash for that creamy kick.

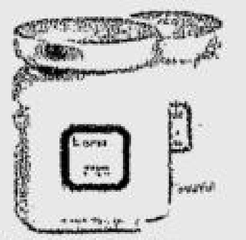
The manufacturers are aware of how addicting gourmand fragrances can be so they have matching candles for those who want to smell them all day. My top picks are the star-shaped Angel candle by Thierry Mugler, Laura Mercier's Tarte au Citron, Crème Brulée and Au Lait, L'Occitane Amande and Candied Fruits (a dead ringer for Angel), and Comptoir's Vanille Abricot (P1,450).

L'Occitane, Laura Mercier, Comptoir, Korres are available at Essenses. Angel, MAC and L'Artisan at Rustan's.

TBS Mango Shower Gel works with Angel Innocent.



TBS Amorito with chocolate, vanilla and jasmine



LAURA Mercier Soufflé Body Crème in Crème Brulée and Tart au Citron

SILK Soufflé by Nikali

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PARTICIPATING designers at the Marcelo B. Fernan Cebu Press Center

After 25 years, it's about time

AS part of its 25th anniversary celebration, Timex Philippines will work with the Cebu-based foundation, Clothes for Life, a charitable organization composed of fashion designers, garment manufacturers and retailers.

This month, Timex will present a fashion show at the Shangri-La Hotel Mactan with 25 members of the Clothes for Life Foundation who will create clothes to match its latest 25 watch models. Proceeds will go to the foundation.

Participating designers are Albert Arriba, Arcy Gayatin, Cary Santiago, Ditas Rodriguez, Dodong Bandibas, Harley Ruedas, Joy Bernaldez, Jude Elardo, Jun Escario, Kate Torralba, Marichu Tan, Mario Colmenares, Myrna Cebrecos, Wendell Quisido, Yvonne Quisumbing, Dexter Alazas, Dino Lloren, Edwin Ao, Mario Rotersos, Oj Hofer, Protacio Empaces, Ray Kuan, Ren Manabat, Ronald Enrico, Sal Malto and Philip Rodriguez.

Clothes for Life Foundation, working with the Department of Social Works and Development, provides assistance to victims of calamity and indigents. It also gives clothes and food to Gasa sa Gugma, Home for the Aged and Destitute and the Happy Horizons Children's Ranch.

Timex will also mark its 25th year in the Philippines by building a Knowledge Center in Pajo Elementary School in Lapu-Lapu City.

The center will give the students an opportunity to enhance their learning experience with the use of audiovisual and computer-based equipment.

Having adopted Pajo Elementary School, Timex, whose manufacturing plant is based in Cebu, provides its students with textbooks. It also donated a water tank and drinking fountain, as well as helped renovate the clinic and build the science park and industrial building.

Aside from its anniversary, the Timex Cebu plant, one of the largest worldwide, is also celebrating the opening of its own direct-shipping facilities. This will allow Timex to ship assembled watches directly to waiting markets in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4351, Series of 2005
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Mechanics.
1. The promo is open to all dine-in, take-out & delivery guests of Shakey's restaurant from August 1 - December 31, 2005.
2. Open to all Globe, Smart and Sun Cellular Subscribers, postpaid or prepaid.
3. For every purchase of the pizza of the month (any size or crust) and/or new products at Shakey's, guest will receive a raffle coupon.
4. The coupon that contains the winning code and transaction receipt must be kept to serve as proof of purchase. Guests can only send code ONCE to qualify as one raffle entry.
5. The subscriber needs to register the said information to validate his/her entry. Raffle entries without the complete information will not be considered as a valid entry. Just text the code in this format:
SHAKEY'S REG <Promo Code>/<Full Name>/<Address>/<Age>/<Gender>
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6. For succeeding entries after registration, subscribers may just use this format:
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For more information on the promo, text SHAKEYS 30 to 2966
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4163 series of 2005

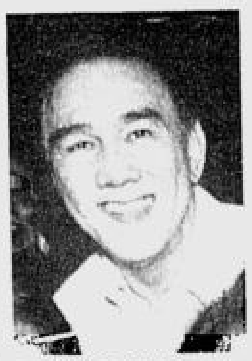
MARICOR Nieto, Cherry and Mike Osmeña; (seated) Diday Barretto and Nookie Barretto

DONNIE Ramirez, Monette Guevara, Maricor Nieto, Dr. Randy Francisco; (seated) Pachot Mapa, Aying de Leon and Fe Rodriguez

RINGGAY Almacer, Ella Barot, Peaches Camus and Diane Fajardo

Surprise birthday party; much ado about 'private bed'

Ditas Lerma, Gilbert Perez and Maritess Lopez


BOBONG Velez

BIBING Montelibano Villanueva

BUSINESSMAN Nando de Leon and wife Dee with Cherry Osmeña

HUBERT Lim and Boone Ongchoco

JACKIE Ongchoco and Marvie Lim

VICKY Santos

AND I MADE THREE: *moi* with Minette Corpus and mega president/COO of Outsource PR Inc., Gerry Zorrilla

MARICOR with son, good-looking Marco Nieto, Mike Lopez; (seated) Lisa Romualdez Nieto, Chris Nieto Lopez and Anton Barretto

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

POPULAR**Maricor Nieto,** the epitome of Southern grace and gentility, hadn't planned anything for her birthday this year. All she had wanted was a quiet evening with some of her closest pals and her children—son **Marco,** an executive at San Miguel, and his wife Dr. **Lisa Romualdez,** and daughter **Chris,** the gorgeous wife of young Meralco scion, **Mike Lopez.**

Well, *palanggas*, Maricor got her wish all right, plus a lot more. She got a surprise birthday dinner at **Bobong Velez**'s newest place, the one-of-a-kind Mezze Restaurant and Bar in Greenbelt 2. Her children and close pals sprung the surprise when she entered Mezze.

Popular cardiologist Dr. **Randy Francisco** was soloing since his wife **Irene Martel-F** was in Cebu on a Philippine Tatler event at Shangri-La Mactan, but that didn't stop him from blending smoothly with the Old Asia group, led by its owner, **Pachot Mapa,** with **Monette Guevarra, Aying de Leon** and fashionable **Fe Rodriguez.**

Maricor's in-law, **Maritess Lagdameo-Lopez,** looking great in a black-and-white outfit, arrived with her pal, **Ditas Lerma.** They were joined by **Bibay Nolasco** and her longtime media pal, everyone's *palangga*, **Gilbert Perez** . Fun **Bibing Villanueva,** of Southern pedigree like the honoree, arrived fashionably on time, and so did Mezze investors **Boone** and **Jackie Ong-Choco;** Dr. **Ernie** and **Vicky Santos,** and young couple, **Hubert** and **Marvie Lim.**

In between socializing, the guests were served scrumptious small-plate specialties of Mezze and famous Spanish dishes from the now-defunct Doña Nena's Restaurant, *palanggas*.

What made the surprise bash so cool was that the young-at-heart rubbed elbows with the young and hip. Having a great time were Maricor's good-looking nieces and nephews, such as handsome **Monsi Diago, Ella Barot, Ringgay Almacer, Peaches Camus, Diane Fajardo** and talented **Anton Barredo** , who did the fab Mezze interiors.

Young and old rocked to the sounds of the '80s and of today, *palanggas*. These included Francis and pretty **Ella Choy; Babes** and Melissa **Simpao; Mike** and **Sherry Osmeña; Nookie** and **Diday Barretto; Noel** and **Cris Matta;** and **Leda Zaragoza,** .

Even former Sen. **Sonny Osmeña** dropped by to greet our birthday gal.

New leisure community

Rich scents and fresh foliage together with calming Asian music and relaxing nature sounds were the backdrop of the launching of Ayala Land's leisure community called Anvaya Cove. The launch was held at the breezy Harbor Garden Tent of the gorgeous hotel by the bay, the Westin Philippine Plaza Manila.

Anvaya Cove is a sprawling 320-ha area in Morong, Bataan, with spectacular awesome views of the Silangan and Bataan mountain ranges, and touched by the cool-blue unpolluted waters of Subic Bay, *palanggas*.

Cocktails got the party on the roll with exotic sitar music for the guests, who were asked to come in cool pastel linen tops or chic tropical cocktail dresses.

The Asian flavors of the night's entertainment continued with breathtaking celebratory dances. Watching the spectacle with pride were Ayala Land's top honchos—slim, good-looking **Fernando Zobel de Ayala** and dashing **Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala** .

"Our direction was to create experiences that were very interactive with nature," explained ALI president Jim Ayala. "We wanted to do something a little bit like what you see in the national parks in the US. You can go there and do things in a natural setting."

Whether you want to build your dream house on a residential lot, or choose to own one of a select number of awesome luxurious seaside villas, Anvaya Cove is your piece of total paradise, *palanggas*.

Call 7287000. E-mail anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.anvayacove.com.

Sweet dreams

Lufthansa German Airlines launched to much fanfare its new business class product, the cool "Private Bed," at the Rockwell Tent.

On hand to try out the state-of-the-art bed were members of the diplomatic corps and Lufthansa's loyal clients.

The seat, with its technologically advanced features, seemed to have left loads of invitees speechless, including my pal, **Johnny Litton,** and that's a rarity, dahlings.

As *moi* was being shown around, Lufthansa's marketing manager, Minette Corpus, said "the Private Bed boasts of features like the Shape System which allows for either a sitting or sleeping position with a mere press of the button, letting passengers stretch out and lie flat."

Those queuing to try the Private Bed meanwhile swayed to the super-exhilarating samba and bossa nova sound of Orchestral Fuego. Some made their way to the sumptuous buffet superbly prepared by Kulinarya while many stuck close to the bar where wine flowed till the last guests staggered out of the Tent.

The best treat of the evening was the raffle of round-trip tickets to Europe. Winner **Javi Berenguer** of Mondial

Tours told me, "Now I can go on our honeymoon trip to Europe." Javi had just tied the knot with magazine editor Lexi Schultz. The other winner was presidential daughter, brilliant **Luli Arroyo.**

Lufthansa, without batting an eyelash, *palanggas*, scored a major hit with its fab Private Bed, no doubt, as well as with its shift from Boeing 747-400 to the cool, ultra-modern Airbus A340-600.

WOLFGANG Schmidt with Lufthansa Philippines GM Christopher Zimmer and Dietmar Kramer

LUCKY GAL: raffle winner Presidential Daughter Luli Arroyo, with Lufthansa Airlines sales manager Jojo Santos and Anne Cruz

JOHNNY Litton with Marilou Ngo, VP and general manager of Sierra Tours, Southern beauty Precy Lopez Psinakis, president and owner of Sierra Tours, and Schwarzwalder's Peter Jentes

WILLY Ocier, Jaime Augusto Zobel and former SBMA chair Felicito Payumo

AYALA'S hotshots checking out Anvaya Cove scale models. Ayala Corporate president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala with ALI chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala and ALI VP, vivaciously nice Marivic Añonuevo

AYALA'S *FAMILLE.* ALI president and CEO Jim Ayala and wife Missy Zablan

SUDECO hotshot board member Greta Go and brilliant design consultant Andy Locsin

YOU can't say no to sales director Dennis Loyola, general manager Guita Resurreccion and sales manager Jixie Trajano of Ayala Land Sales Inc.

WOMEN behind their husbands' thrones. Glecy Mojares, Tess Briones and Carrie Bautista

LOOK polished in these classic black leather pumps.

Stylish, comfy, homegrown

IT'S definitely of utmost importance to put your best foot forward at all times. The surefire way to do this is by putting together a great outfit, some appropriate accessories and a comfortable yet stylish pair of classic shoes to carry you from business meeting to trendy cocktail event.

Via Venetto is a brand known for showcasing the best of homegrown shoe designs as well as introducing to the Philippines the latest fashion innovations from Europe. Via Venetto's shoes and bags are always in style and are never outdated.

Take for example its satchels, available in brown embossed crocodile skin that go well with either an ultra-chic power suit or a more casual denim look. For endless walking trips in the city's concrete mazes, Via Venetto's flat kidskin numbers in a variety of colors make sure your feet are kept intact and comfy, without about blisters and bruises.

Other Via Venetto shoes sport round-buckled bows, dainty ribbons or colored piping, which make good matches with the tweed jackets, '40s skirts and capris coming out this season.

Via Venetto branches are at Alabang Town Center New Wing, Muntinlupa; Glorietta 1 and Greenbelt 1, Makati; SM Megamall A; SM City Annex North Edsa; and SM City Cebu.

BE dainty and stay comfortable in ballerina flats.

TOP off your corporate or casual attire with a croc-skin satchel.

Alaska and Kellogg's team up
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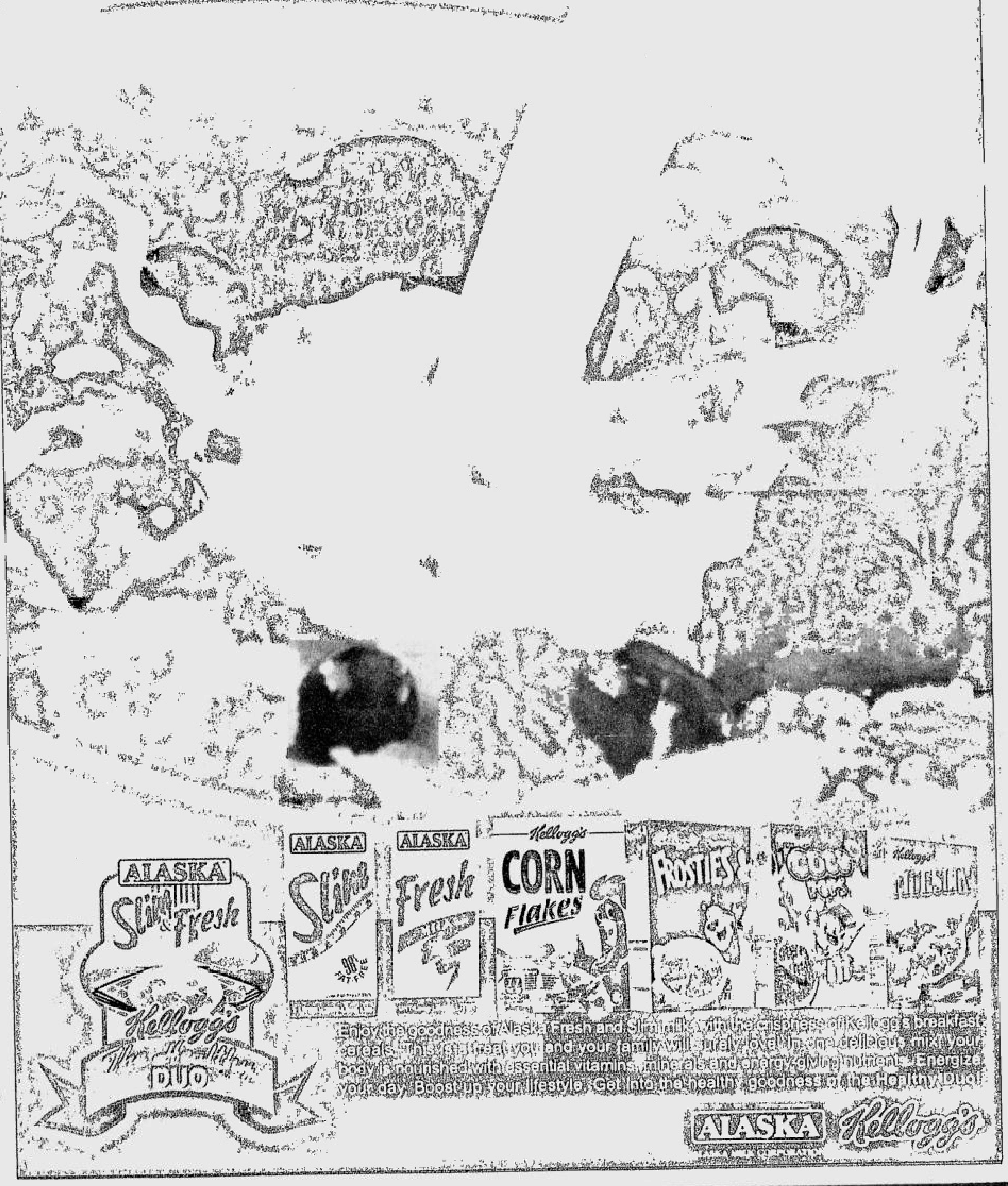
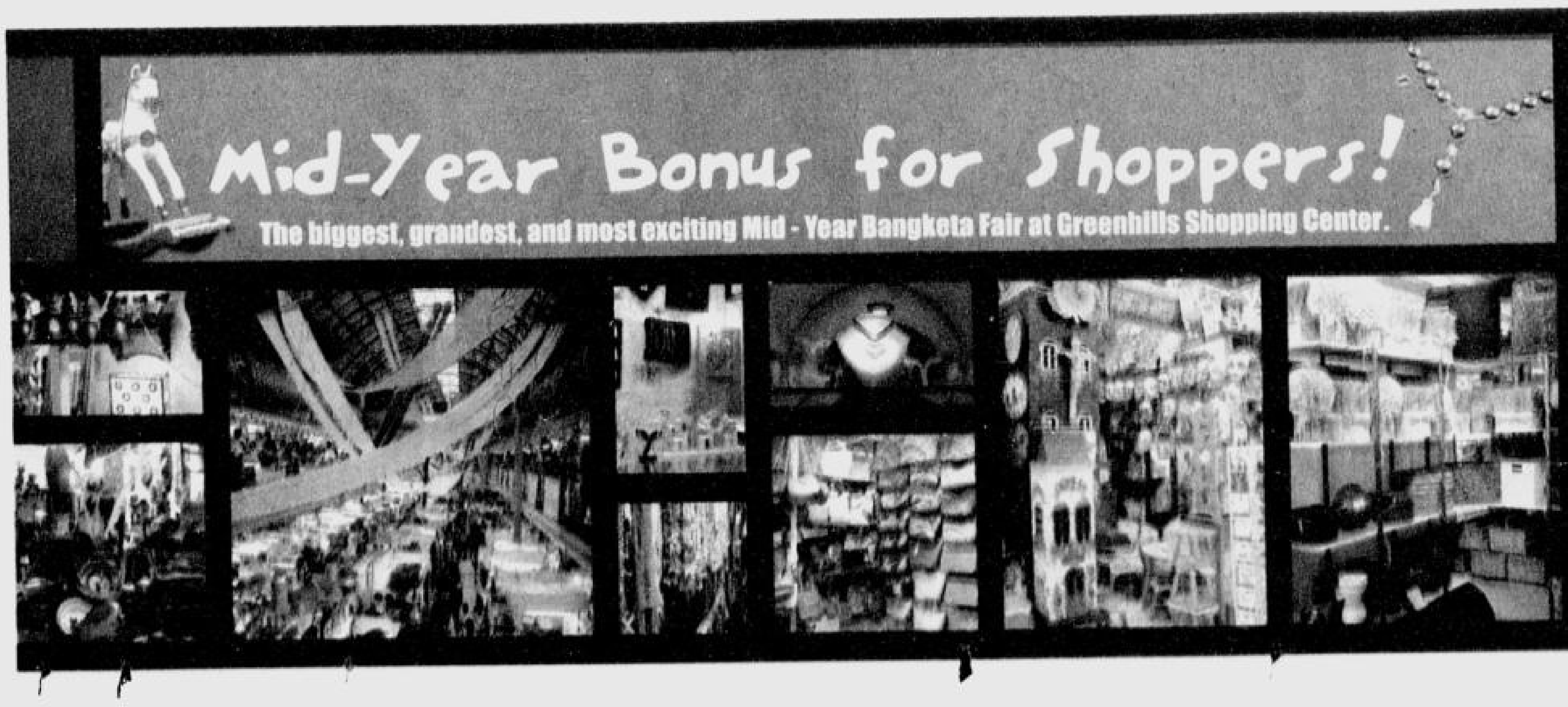
The Healthy Duo.



Enjoy the goodness of Alaska Fresh and Slim milk with the crispness of Kellogg's breakfast cereals. This great treat you and your family will surely love! In one delicious mix! your body is nourished with essential vitamins, minerals and energy-giving nutrients. Energize your day. Boost up your lifestyle. Get into the healthy goodness of the Healthy Duo!


Mid-Year Bonus for Shoppers!
The biggest, grandest, and most exciting Mid - Year Bangketa Fair at Greenhills Shopping Center.

Visit the most awaited fair of the year! From July 8 to August 8, 2005, expect a bigger and wider collection of bargain finds with 1,700 stalls of apparel, shoes, bags, jewelry, and many other items at very affordable prices. Plus the best Philippine crafts from home décor to bags from the 2nd Philippine Crafts Fair that will make this fair even more colorful. Bring your family and friends to this mid - year event, because only at GSC can you shop 'til you drop on a giant bangketa!

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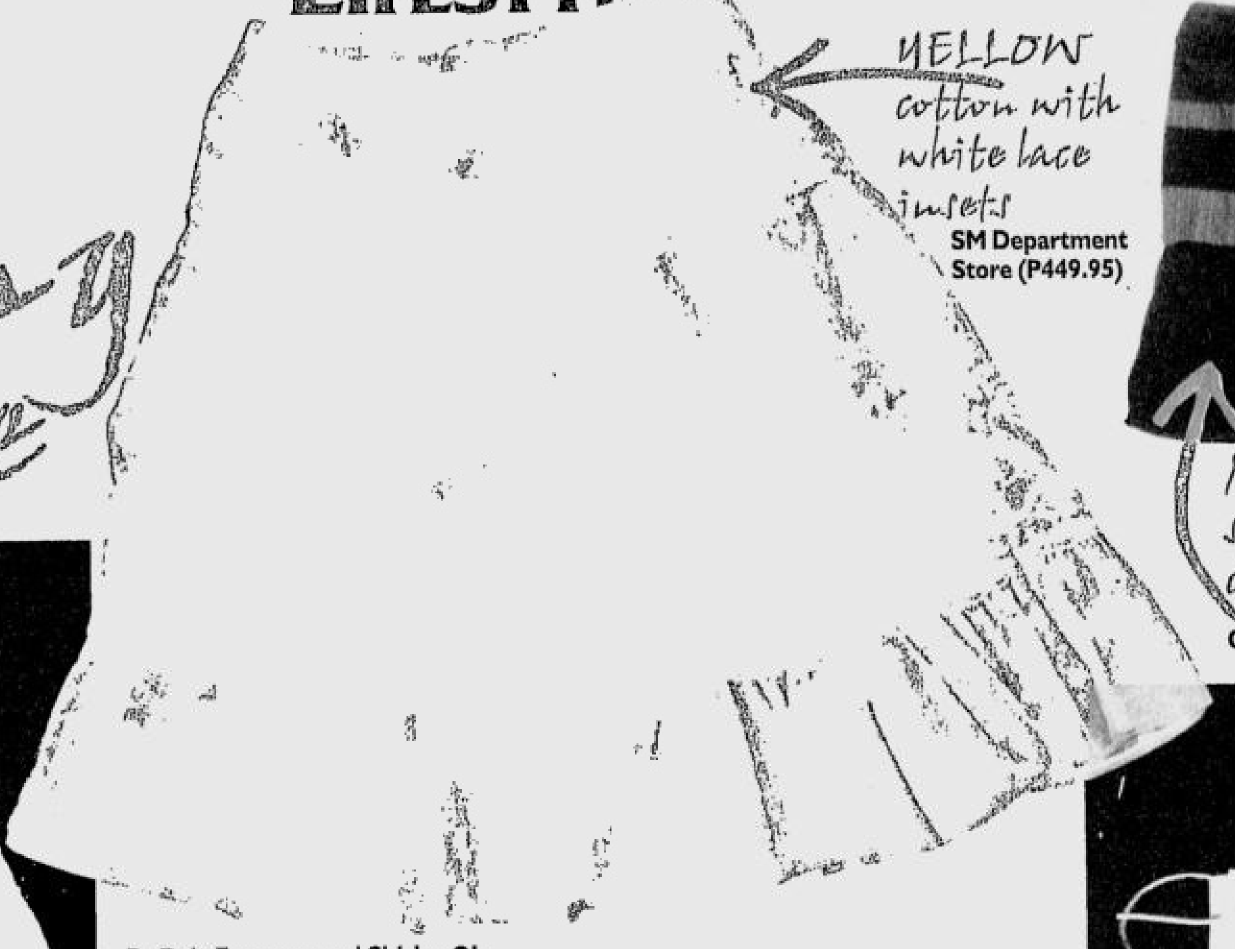
WINDOW SHOPPING

Skirting the issue



YELLOW cotton with white lace insets

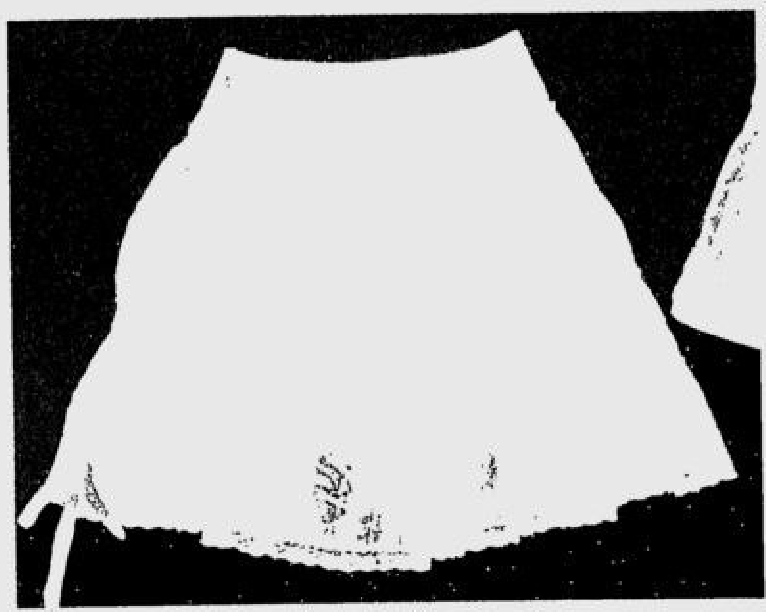
SM Department Store (P449.95)

MINI semi-pouf skirt with gray and copper insets

Greyhound (P5,135)

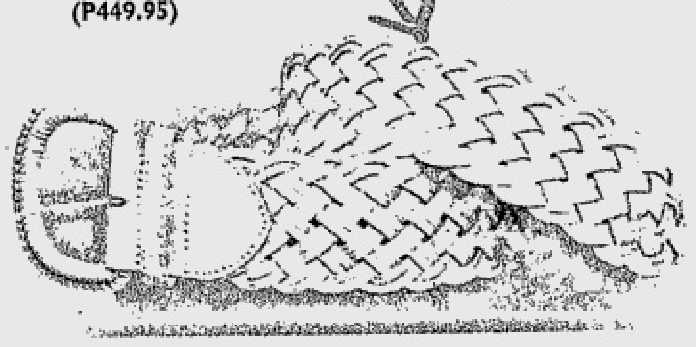
By Beia Formoso and Shirley Oh
Contributors
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

SKIRTS are in full bloom in stores these days. Long or short, full or tight, there is bound to be one that suits your mood and style. So go on, unleash your girly side—full skirt ahead! There's no better time to toss one on than now. Strap a wide belt over it. Finish the look with a pair of cute flats. Enjoy being a girl!



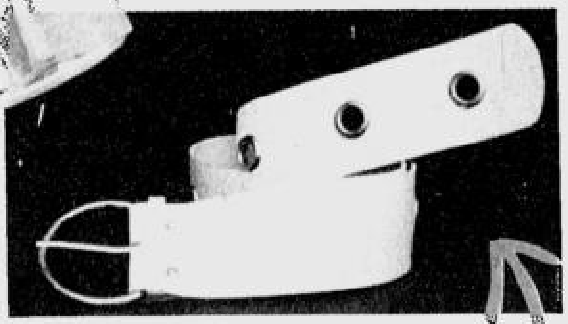
WHITE is right. Eyelet embroidered flared skirt

SM Department Store (P449.95)



BRAIDED beige wide belt

Dorothy Perkins (P1,145)

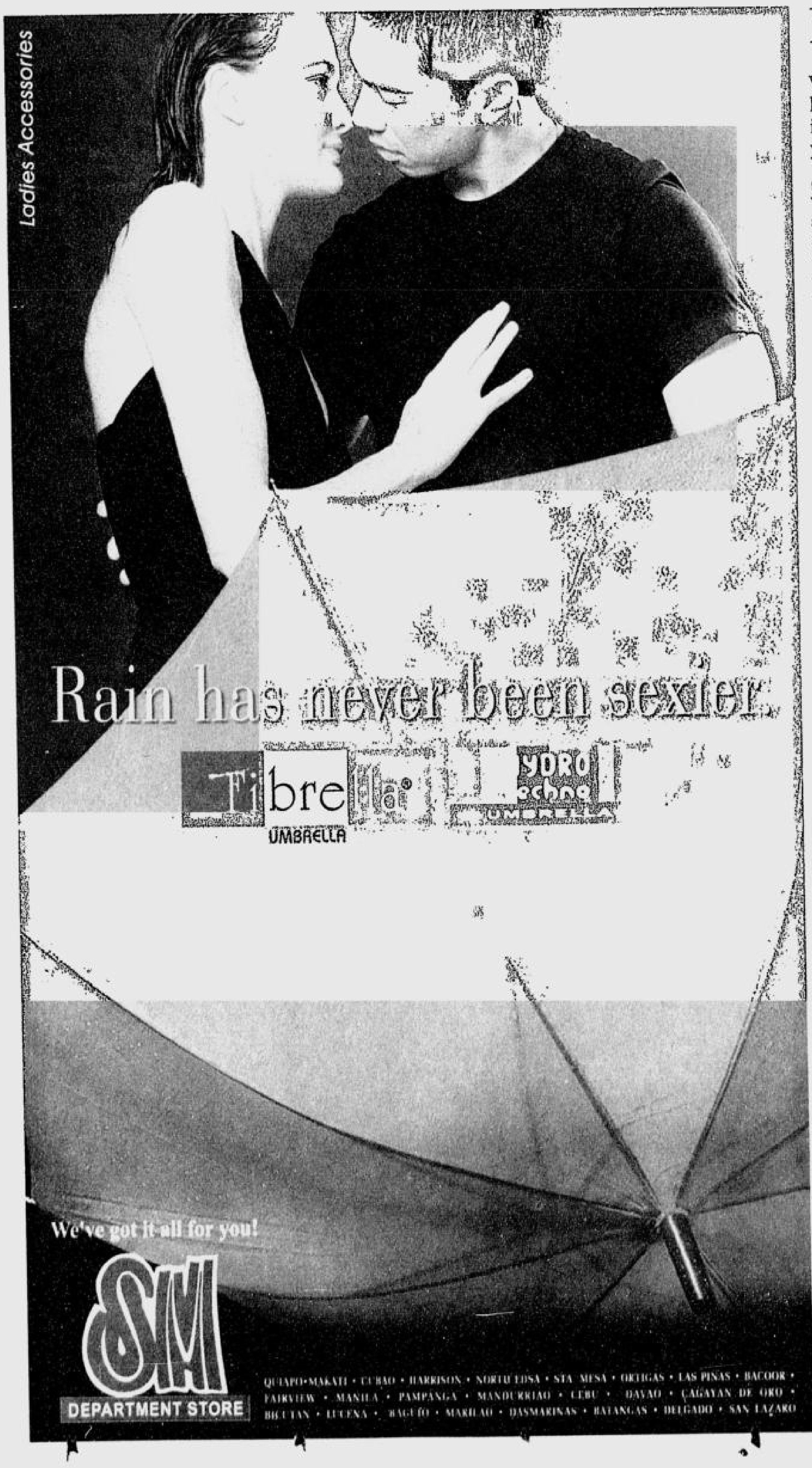


IT'S a cinch! White wide belt with silver eyelets

SM Department Store (P209.75)

WHIMSICAL flats in brown pleated satin with dragonfly pendant

Juan by Janilyn (P895)



Ladies Accessories

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Fine fashion for over 30 years

VIDA Doria is a stalwart in both haute couture and RTW. Her fashion business has thrived for over 30 years.

The former Miss Philippines designs off-the-rack clothes that are smart and classic. Vastly in demand are the corporate wear, casual and formal apparel, wedding and ballroom gowns. The Vida Doria Imports label shows all-types-of-weather travel attire. Casuals are knitted blouses, spandex tops, stretch pants (great for golf garb) and loose tops.

The knitted fabrics are exclusively woven and dyed to the colors and textures of Vida Doria's taste. She goes for natural fabrics. Other materials are linen, cotton, brocade, shantung and chiffon. Majority of the fabrics are imported from Japan, Europe and Hong Kong.

Her designs come in exuberant colors: turquoise, burgundy, lime green, fuchsia, Mediterranean blue, carnation pink and coral hues. Accessories include necklaces, bracelets, earrings and brooches made of precious stones, pearls, Swarovski crystals and gold fillers.

The Vida Doria boutiques are located at F-105 G/F, SM City-North Edsa (tel. 9282727) since 1985, 248 2/L Bldg A, SM Megamall-Ortigas (6334995) and Space 30, G/F, Quad Glorietta Arcade, Makati (8182167). Her made-to-order and gown showroom is located at 44 Maginhawa St., Teacher Village, QC (9269493).

CASUAL wear

FORMAL wear

CORPORATE wear

Super! 08*06*05
~NBC Tent, The Fort
10AM Artists' Fair
A Super! bazaar
organized by KC Concepcion.
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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 1872 SERIES OF 2005

Bewitching mix of old and new

NICOLE Kidman as Isabel Bigelow in "Bewitched"

COSTUME designer Mary Zophres' disparate influences for Nicole Kidman's wardrobe in Columbia Pictures' new romantic comedy "Bewitched" were a mixture of historical and current.

The designer, who previously created the costumes for Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me If You Can" and "The Terminal," explains, "Of course, I watched a lot of episodes from the original 'Bewitched' TV series and pored through research books. I re-watched some of my favorite movies like 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' because I wanted Nicole's character to look classic, beautiful, timeless. Some of my references were Audrey Hepburn, Jean Shrimpton and Jean Seberg. I also perused tons of contemporary fashion magazines because, after all, it isn't a period piece and we wanted the clothes to appear modern and fresh. But, in its own way, it acknowledges a TV show from the 1960s. By looking at past and present motifs, we melded the two."

Part of the challenge was not just to create a wardrobe that evoked Nicole's character, Isabel, and her quest for normalcy, but also to adapt it for the Oscar-winning actress, one of the film world's most famous fashion icons. Also, Isabel's wardrobe had to contrast with what she wore as the character of Samantha on the TV show within the movie.

"Nicole has become a fashion icon because she is statuesque and everything she wears looks unbelievable," Zophres explains. "In this movie, we tried to counter that somewhat. Basically, we wanted her to look fabulous, but not in the fashion runway/red-carpet sense. The very first thing I said to director Nora Ephron when we talked about Nicole was, 'I think she should look adorable, and I mean that with a capital A.' Like you just want to go and give her a hug."

"Often, because of her silhouette, the way she moves and the couture clothes, the first adjective that comes to mind about Nicole is sophisticated," Zophres continues. "A lot of that also is because of the darker colors and deeper tones she wears, which seem very urban—everything Isabel is not. So we decided to keep her in a lighter color palette, not just pastels, but softer hues, often a neutral paired with a lighter color. We also added feminine touches, like embroidery and beading or a fuller skirt. There is also a tomboy-

BEWITCHING/ E4

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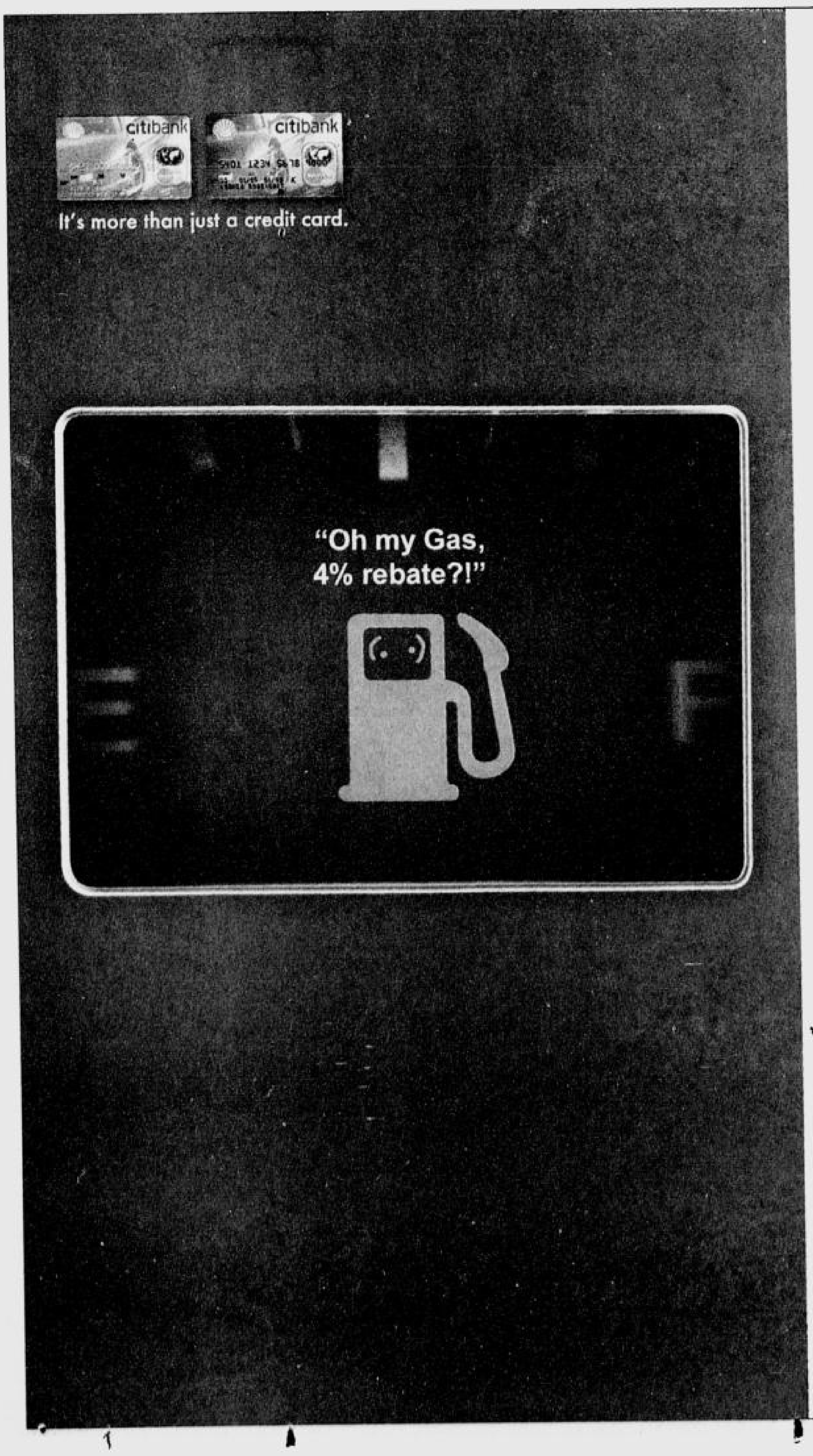

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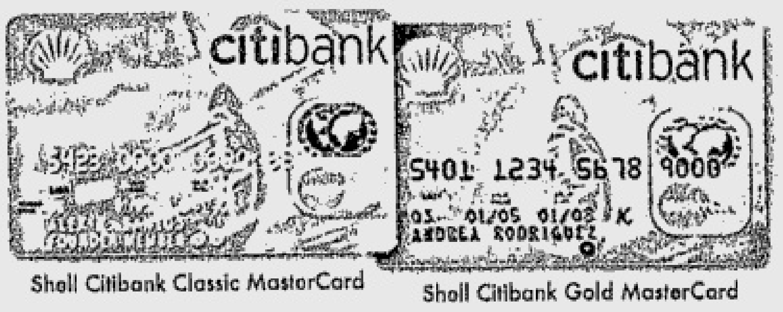
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4% Fuel Rebate from AUG 01 to OCT 31.
Use your Shell Citibank MasterCard and get a 4% rebate for fuel purchases made at participating Shell stations.*

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One million thanks to you!

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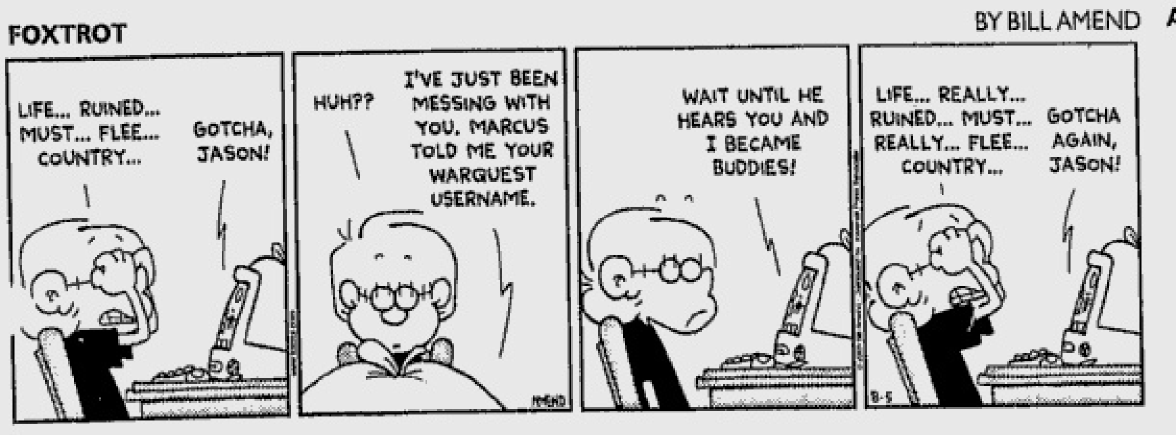
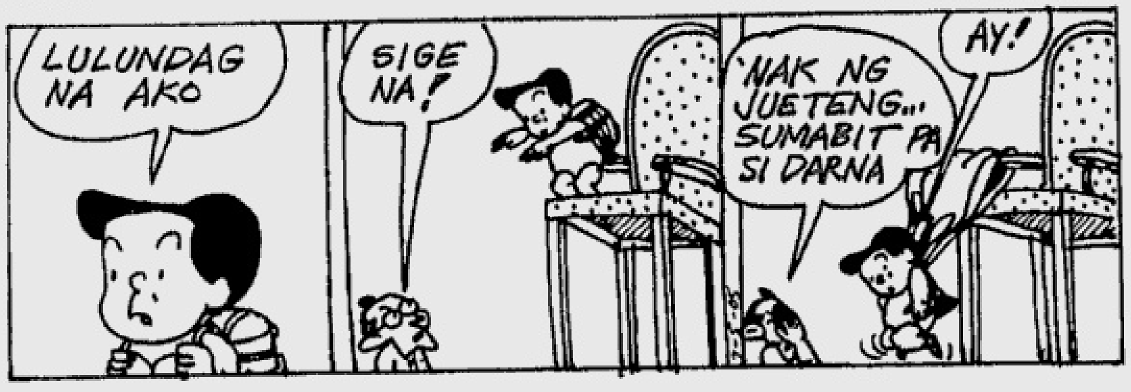
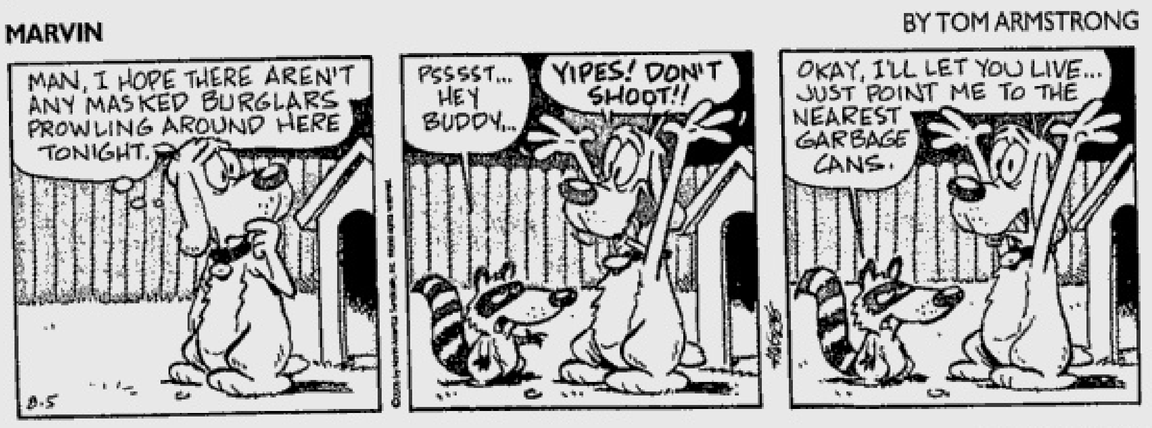
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


LIFE... RUINED... MUST... FLEE... COUNTRY...
GOTCHA, JASON!
HUH??
I'VE JUST BEEN MESSING WITH YOU. MARCUS TOLD ME YOUR WARGUEST USERNAME.
WAIT UNTIL HE HEARS YOU AND I BECAME BUDDIES!
LIFE... REALLY... RUINED... MUST... REALLY... FLEE... COUNTRY...
GOTCHA AGAIN, JASON!
8-5

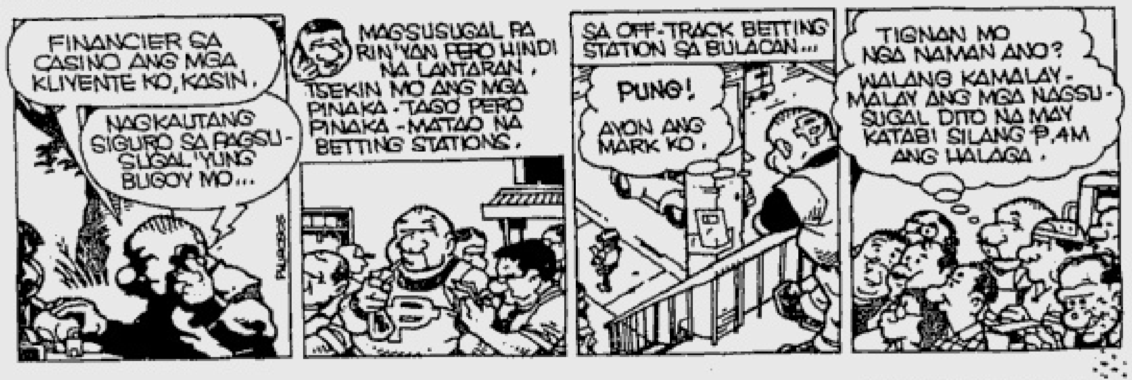
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


LULUNDAG NA AKO
SIGE NA!
'NAK NG JUETENG... SUMABIT PA SI DARNA
AY!

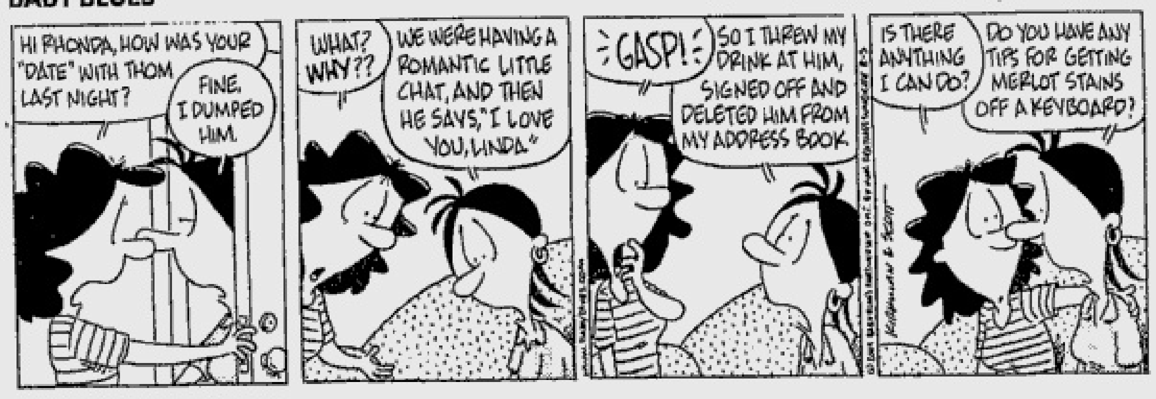
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MAN, I HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY MASKED BURGLARS PROWLING AROUND HERE TONIGHT.
PSSSST... HEY BUDDY...
YIPES! DON'T SHOOT!!
OKAY, I'LL LET YOU LIVE... JUST POINT ME TO THE NEAREST GARBAGE CANS.
8-5

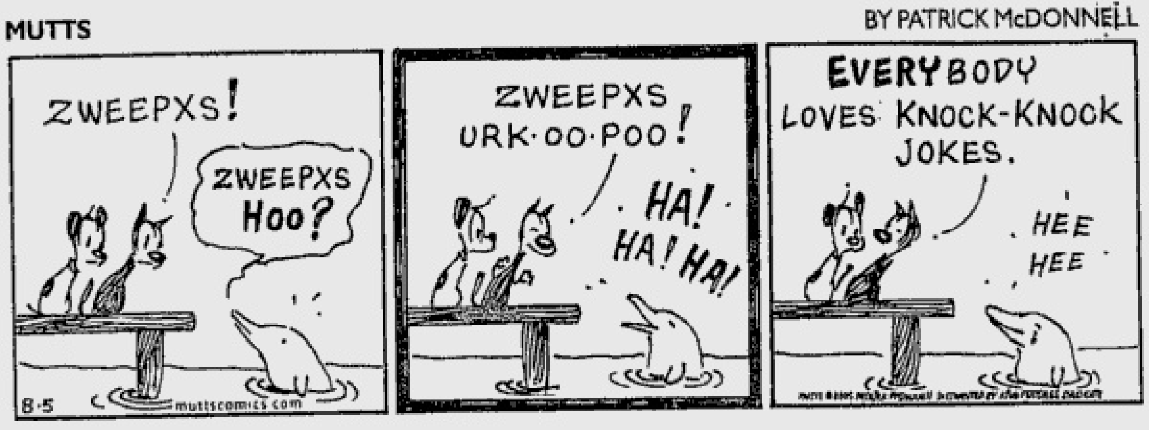
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


FINANCIER SA CASINO ANG MGA KLIYENTE KO, KASIN.
NAGKAUTANG SIGURO SA PAGSUSUGAL 'YUNG BUGOY MO...
MAGSUSUGAL PA RIN 'YAN PERO HINDI NA LANTARAN. TSEKIN MO ANG MGA PINAKA-TAGO PERO PINAKA-MATAO NA BETTING STATIONS.
SA OFF-TRACK BETTING STATION SA BULACAN...
PUNO!
AYON ANG MARK KO.
TIGNAN MO NGA NAMAN ANO? WALANG KAMALAY-MALAY ANG MGA NAGSUSUGAL DITO NA MAY KATABI SILANG ₱.4M ANG HALAGA.

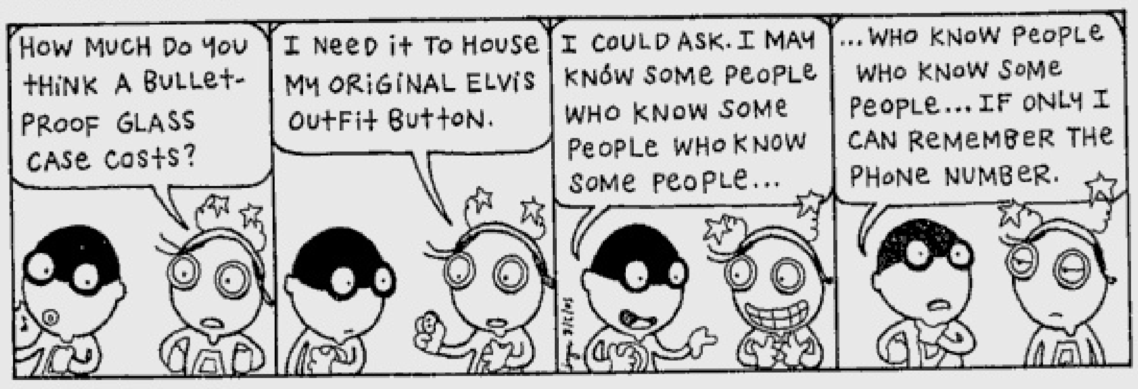
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HI RHONDA, HOW WAS YOUR "DATE" WITH THOM LAST NIGHT?
FINE. I DUMPED HIM.
WHAT? WHY??
WE WERE HAVING A ROMANTIC LITTLE CHAT, AND THEN HE SAYS, "I LOVE YOU, LINDA."
GASP!
SO I THREW MY DRINK AT HIM, SIGNED OFF AND DELETED HIM FROM MY ADDRESS BOOK.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS FOR GETTING MERLOT STAINS OFF A KEYBOARD?

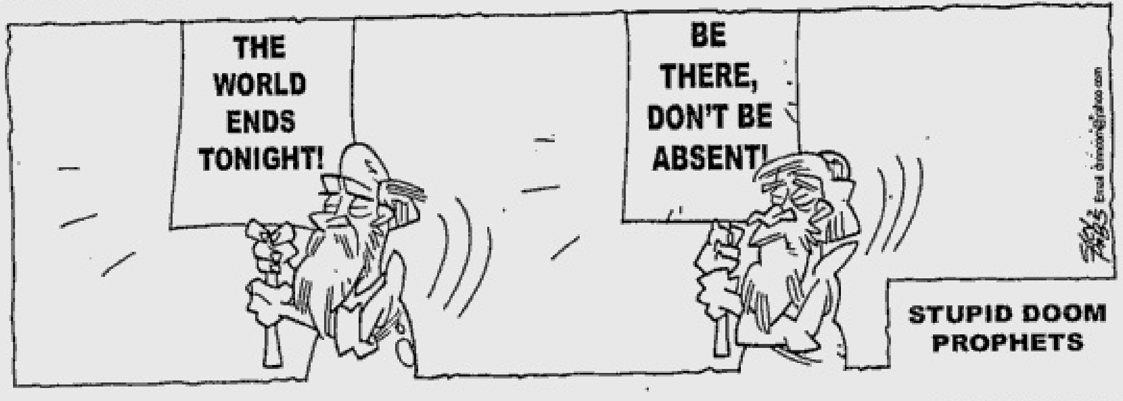
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ZWEEPXS!
ZWEEPXS HOO?
ZWEEPXS URK-OO-POO!
HA! HA! HA!
EVERYBODY LOVES KNOCK-KNOCK JOKES.
HEE HEE
8-5
muttscomics.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK A BULLET-PROOF GLASS CASE COSTS?
I NEED IT TO HOUSE MY ORIGINAL ELVIS OUTFIT BUTTON.
I COULD ASK. I MAY KNOW SOME PEOPLE WHO KNOW SOME PEOPLE WHO KNOW SOME PEOPLE...
...WHO KNOW PEOPLE WHO KNOW SOME PEOPLE... IF ONLY I CAN REMEMBER THE PHONE NUMBER.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE WORLD ENDS TONIGHT!
BE THERE, DON'T BE ABSENT!
STUPID DOOM PROPHETS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You enjoy the limelight. You also enjoy good times, parties, vacations and fun! Freedom is important to you. You definitely spend money the way you want to, especially on entertaining diversions. You want people to appreciate you (and they generally do). The year ahead focuses on relationships, partnerships and your closest friendships.

Birthdate of: Loni Anderson, actress; Neil Armstrong, astronaut; Kajol, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Try to find time and ways to express your creative talents today. You are the artisan of the zodiac! You love to discover new ways of doing things.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have some good ideas today about how to make money through real estate or something to do with your home. You feel very optimistic today about your domestic scene. (Talk to family.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're thinking like a winner today! You expect a positive outcome. This is the secret to any success. Congratulations!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have great moneymaking ideas today. Ditto for tomorrow. These moneymaking ideas could impact real estate decisions or your home in some way. You see how to make money in your own backyard.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a fabulous day for your sign. You feel upbeat, positive and optimistic about everything. This winning attitude will attract people and opportunities to you. Yay!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel genuinely concerned for those who are less fortunate than you. You want to help if you can. You want to make a difference in the lives of others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Time spent with friends and groups will be enjoyable today. People are in a good mood. Your interaction with groups will definitely be successful today!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): People admire you and respect you today. You seem to have all the answers. At least you seem to know what you're doing and where you're going. (Fake it, if necessary.)

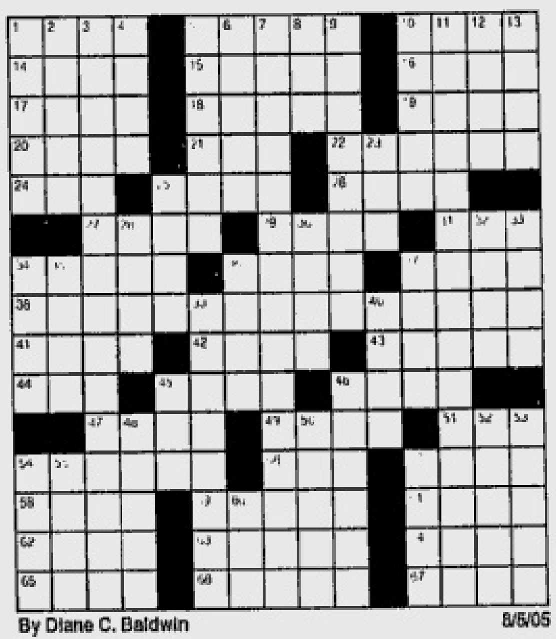
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): New discoveries about philosophical, religious or political ideas excite you now. It's as if you've been introduced to a whole new way of thinking and seeing the world.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have excellent ideas about how to best use the resources of others now. People should listen to your advice. You know what you're talking about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a great day for important discussions with partners, close friends and members of the public. Your enthusiasm carries the day. People are willing to listen to you and endorse your views.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's easy to get cooperation from others at work today. Count on getting supplies, extended budgets, staff and whatever it is you need from others. It will come through for

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

8/5/05

ACROSS

1 Devitalizes
5 Change charts
10 Go a round with?
14 Burn balm
15 Swiftly
16 Stocking shade
17 Thicken, as cream
18 Doctrine
19 Actor Arkin
20 Fishing poles
21 Cowboy Ritter
22 Inuit
24 Pointed tool
25 Speak hoarsely
26 Flightless bird
27 English prep school
29 Lay eyes on
31 Holy sister
34 Double quartet
36 Killer whale
37 Grimm baddie
38 Deluge theme
41 Sharp turns
42 Kind of crazy?
43 Buenos __
44 Hydrogen's number
45 Order to Trigger
46 One of a sailing trio
47 Wild profusion
49 Turndowns
51 Actor Holbrook
54 Military division
56 Handle roughly
57 Horse hybrid
58 Be sore
59 Sharp-crested ridge
61 Capital by a fjord
62 "For _ _ the Bell Tolls"
63 Country bumpkin
64 Onion covering
65 Sty mamas
66 Soothsayers
67 "Auld Lang __"

DOWN

1 Vertebral
[illegible]
3 Theme sampling
4 TV units
5 Wickerwork cane
6 Dueling weapons
7 Theme sampling
8 Breeze through
9 Barrie boy
10 Wind, as a river
11 Theme sampling
12 Eden inhabitant
13 First female U.S. attorney general
23 Owing the kitty
25 College marching grp.
28 Sawbucks
30 Lingering sign of damage
32 Driving force
33 Capone's nemesis
34 Pearly pasta
35 F[illegible]
36 Germany's Bismarck
37 Valhalla bigwig
39 Smokers' receptacles
40 Speaker's platform
45 Pursue amorously
46 Handrail supports
48 List particulars
50 Horse opera
52 Bushed
53 Sierra __
54 Old sayings
55 Can[illegible]
57 Very [illegible]
60 Sturgeon delicacy

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	R	E	■	W	A	F	T	S	■	P	S	S	T
E	M	I	R	■	A	T	R	I	A	■	L	O	C	I
O	A	T	S	■	S	O	A	R	S	■	A	L	O	E
W	H	A	T	I	T	L	I	E	S	I	N	O	U	R
■	■	■	■	D	E	L	L	■	■	C	E	N	T	S
S	E	P	A	L	S	■	■	S	P	E	D	■	■	■
O	R	A	T	E	■	S	O	H	O	■	■	A	D	A
P	O	W	E	R	T	O	D	O	L	I	E	S	I	N
S	S	S	■	■	U	N	D	O	■	S	L	E	E	T
■	■	■	D	O	G	S	■	■	G	L	O	A	T	S
C	A	P	E	R	■	■	T	A	L	E	■	■	■	■
O	U	R	P	O	W	E	R	N	O	T	T	O	D	O
T	R	I	O	■	E	T	A	T	S	■	A	R	E	A
T	A	M	S	■	D	U	P	E	S	■	S	C	A	R
A	L	E	E	■	S	I	S	S	Y	■	S	A	N	S

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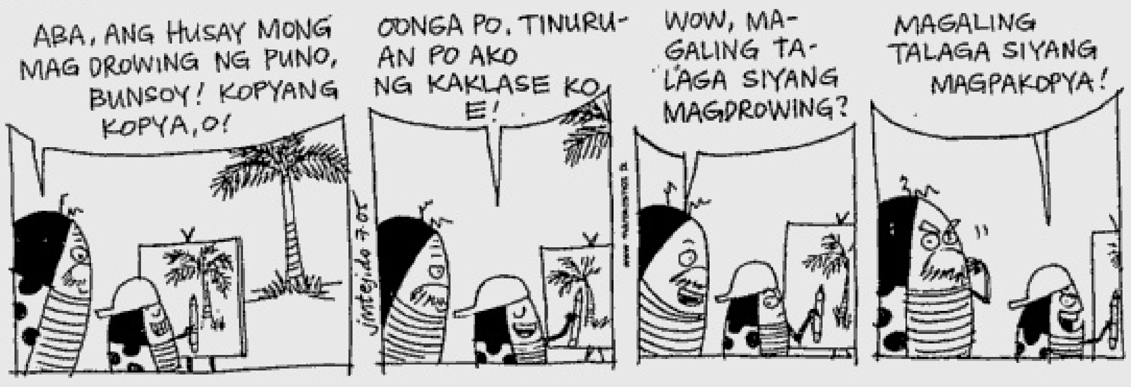
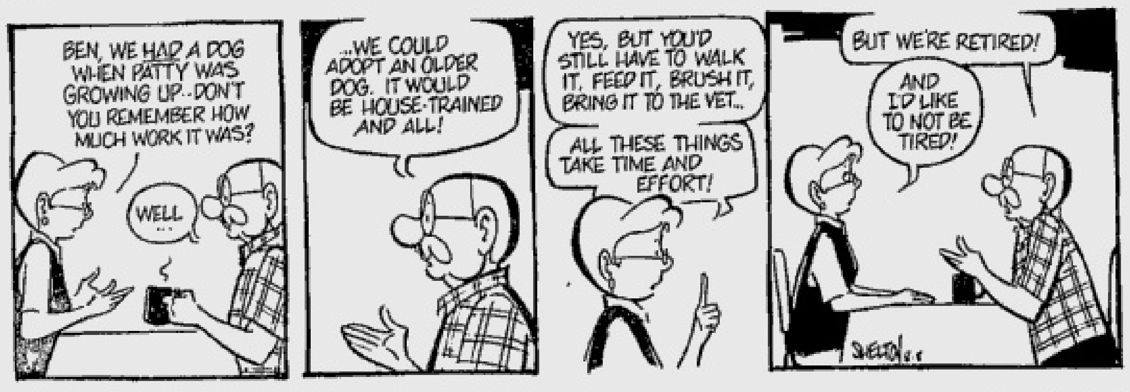
8/5/05

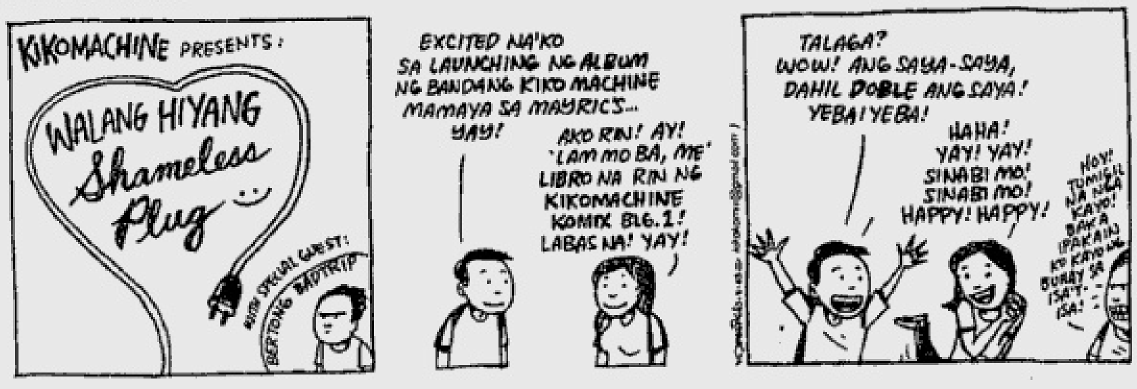
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ABA, ANG HUSAY MONG MAG DROWING NG PUNO, BUNSOY! KOPYANG KOPYA, O!
OONGA PO. TINURUAN PO AKO NG KAKLASE KO E!
WOW, MAGALING TALAGA SIYANG MAGDROWING?
MAGALING TALAGA SIYANG MAGPAKOPYA!

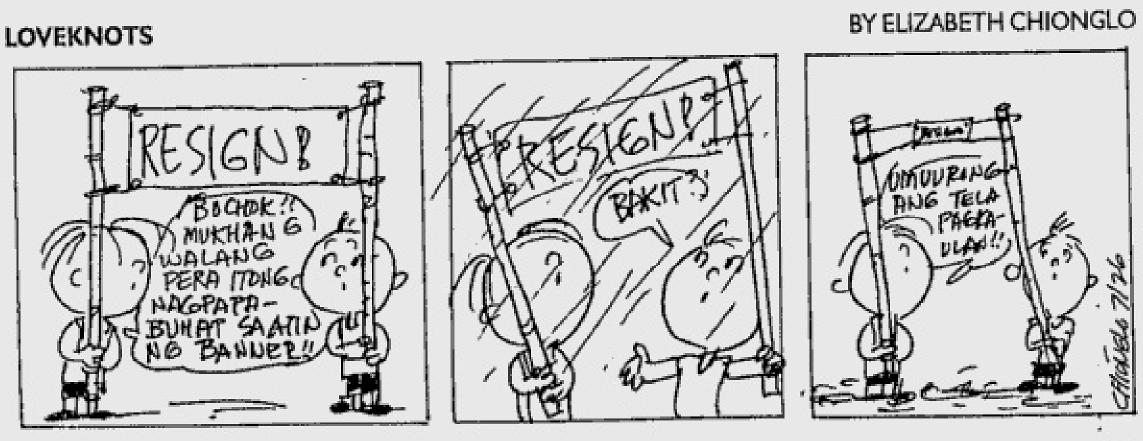
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, WE HAD A DOG WHEN PATTY WAS GROWING UP.. DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW MUCH WORK IT WAS?
WELL...
...WE COULD ADOPT AN OLDER DOG. IT WOULD BE HOUSE-TRAINED AND ALL!
YES, BUT YOU'D STILL HAVE TO WALK IT, FEED IT, BRUSH IT, BRING IT TO THE VET...
ALL THESE THINGS TAKE TIME AND EFFORT!
BUT WE'RE RETIRED!
AND I'D LIKE TO NOT BE TIRED!

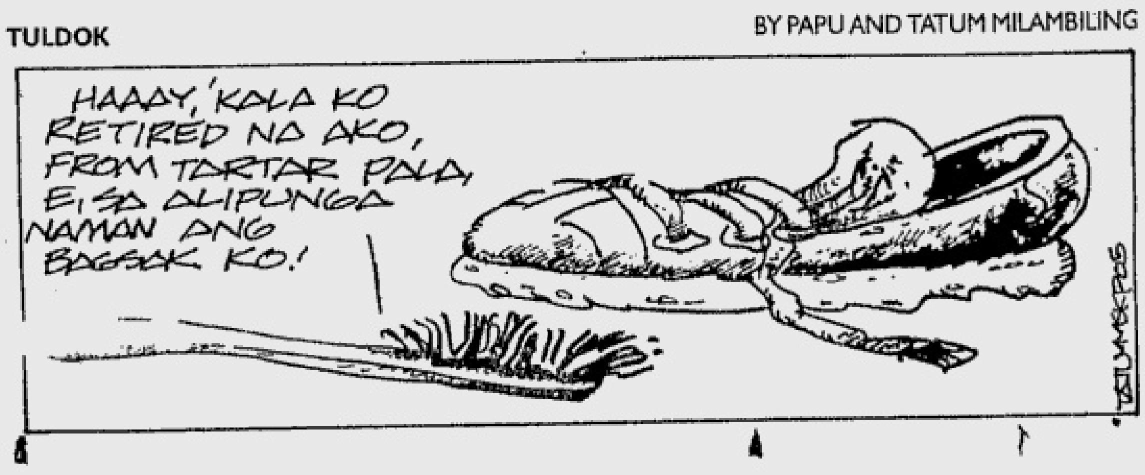
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINE PRESENTS:
WALANG HIYANG Shameless Plug
WITH SPECIAL GUEST: BERTONG BADTRIP
EXCITED NA'KO SA LAUNCHING NG ALBUM NG BANDANG KIKO MACHINE MAMAYA SA MAYRIC'S... YAY!
AKO RIN! AY! 'LAM MO BA, ME' LIBRO NA RIN NG KIKOMACHINE KOMIX BLG.1! LABAS NA! YAY!
TALAGA? WOW! ANG SAYA-SAYA, DAHIL DOBLE ANG SAYA! YEBA! YEBA!
HAHA! YAY! YAY! SINABI MO! SINABI MO! HAPPY! HAPPY!
HOY! TUMIGIL NA NGA KAYO! BAKA IPAKAIN KO KAYO NG BURAY SA ISA'T-ISA!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

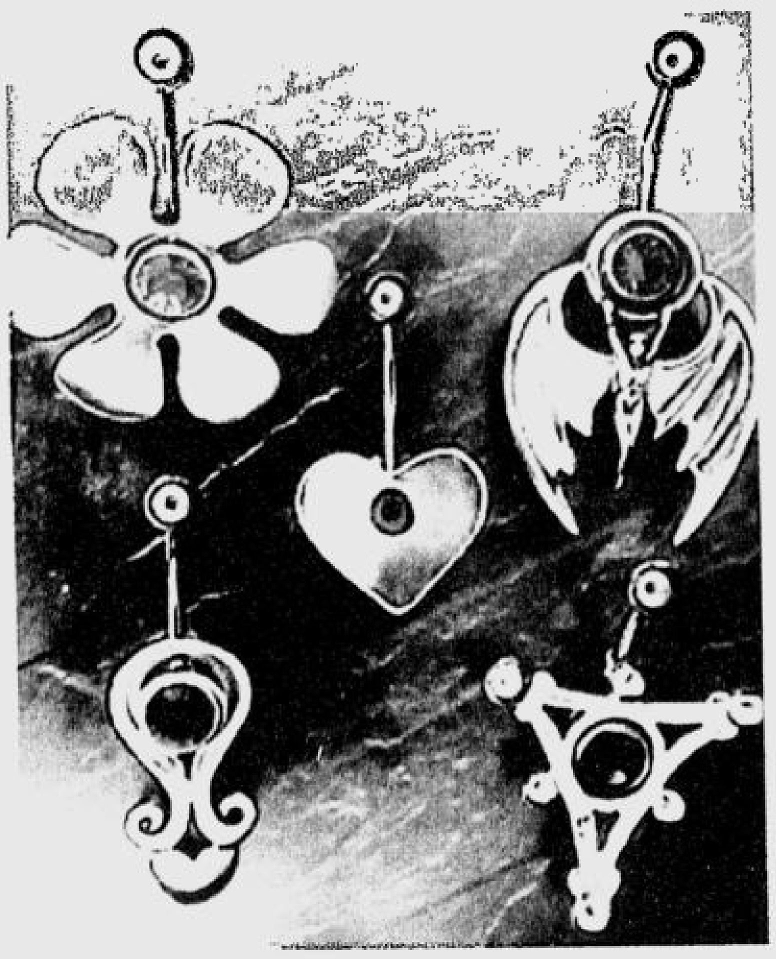

RESIGN!
BOCHOK!! MUKHANG WALANG PERA ITONG NAGPAPABUHAT SAATIN NG BANNER!!
RESIGN!
BAKIT?!
UMUURONG ANG TELA PAGKAULAN!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HAAAY, 'KALA KO RETIRED NA AKO, FROM TARTAR PALA E, SA ALIPUNGA NAMAN ANG BAGSAK KO!

KOOBA BAGS. Celebrity fans of this bag brand include Sarah Jessica Parker, Courtney Cox, Beyoncé Knowles and Julia Roberts.

BEVERLY Boulevard Skirt



NOIR Belly Rings. A large selection of Noir navel jewelry can be found at Gotham, Harrison Plaza.

Hip New York lines in Manila

FRANKIE B. Jeans

GOTHAM is the shop for those looking for a pair of jeans that flatter the legs or those buying bikinis as separates.

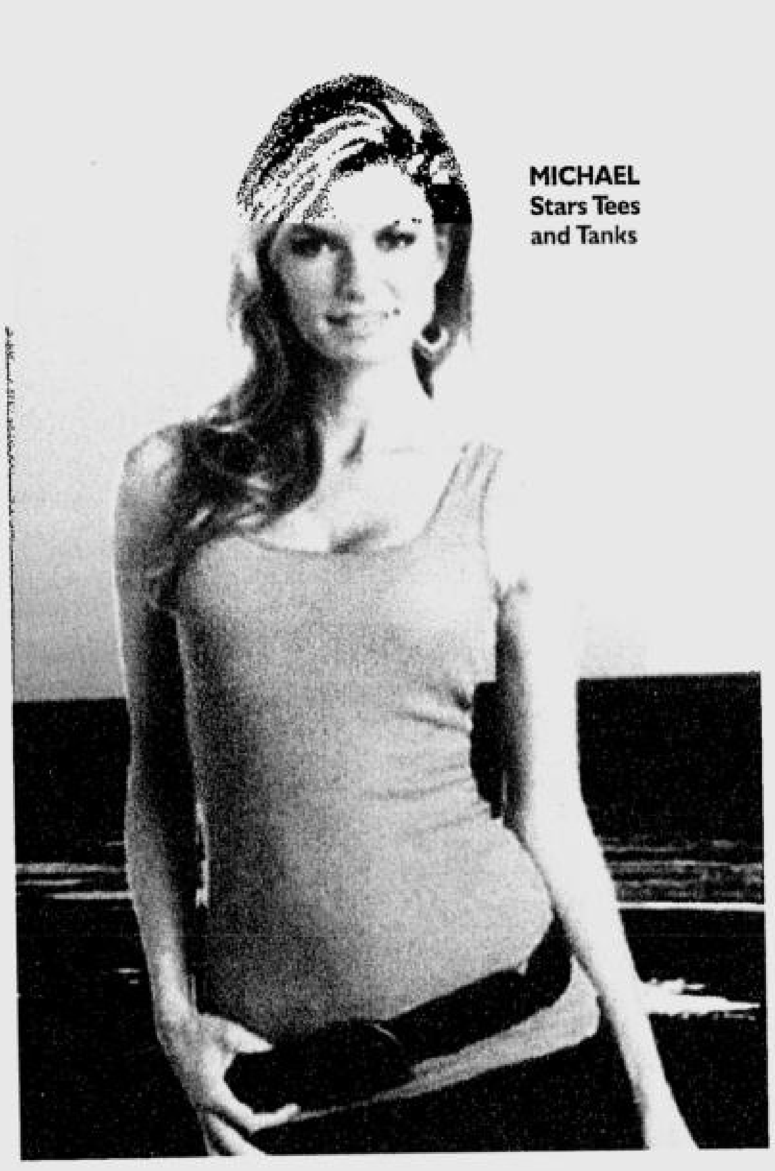
Gotham, which opens Aug. 11, is located at the ground floor of Harrison Plaza in Manila. Owner Maria Antonia Martel says she is opening Gotham because of the trouble of "finding those jeans that fit just right or finding bikinis sold as separates and good lingerie in general."

Gotham offers everything that women need: jeans, tops, bags, belts, trousers, sportswear, tees and tanks, flip-flops, swimwear, fancy beach towels, belly rings, jewelry, lingerie, even bag hooks.

Gotham carries labels such as Paige Premium Denim, Frankie B. Jeans, So Low, Michael Stars, Ed Hardy, Mella footwear, Tali's Belts, Kooba Handbags, Hanky Panky and Cosabella Lingerie, Cuffz by Linz handbags and Noir Jewelry.

Martel says quality should be a main consideration above quantity. "I believe in saving up for that one luxury item that could be staple in one's wardrobe because of its classic design and its quality," she says. "I feel that the brands I carry are famous not because of who wears them but because of their quality and that is probably even why celebrities wear them. They settle for nothing less than the best, and I hope that more people adopt this mentality."

She adds her merchandise are priced reasonably. "After all, I wish to have these products available to as many people as possible and not only those with 'celebrity-type' budgets."



MICHAEL Stars Tees and Tanks

TALI'S Belts

Gotham offers everything that women need: jeans, tops, bags, belts, trousers, sportswear, tees and tanks, flip-flops, swimwear, fancy beach towels, belly rings, jewelry, lingerie, even bag hooks

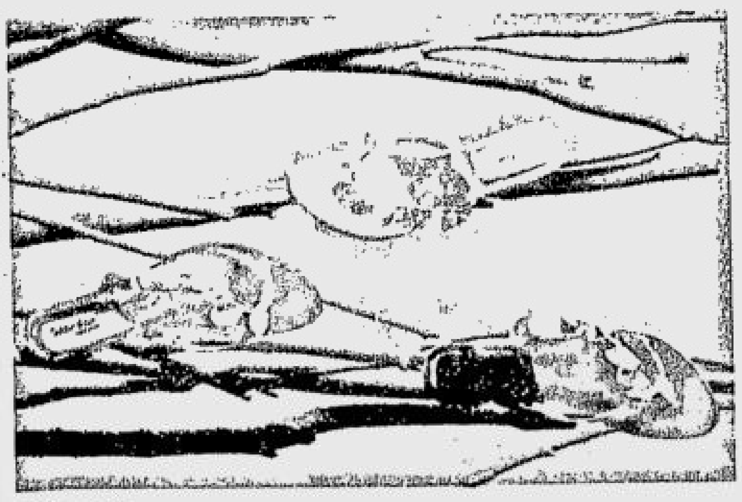
Treasure box of shoes

CINDERELLA recently launched Shoe Box, a haven for footwear lovers of all ages.

With three lines of footwear to choose from—basic, casual, and dressy—there's surely a shoe waiting for you in Shoe Box. The basic line carries simple slides, comfy flats and thongs. Style-savvy weekend lovers can get their fill of sporty sneakers, ballet flats and fuss-free slip-ons. Trendy fashionistas might want to check out jeweled thong sandals, rainbow-colored mules, pointed pumps, boots, slingbacks and pastel ballet flats decorated with brooches.

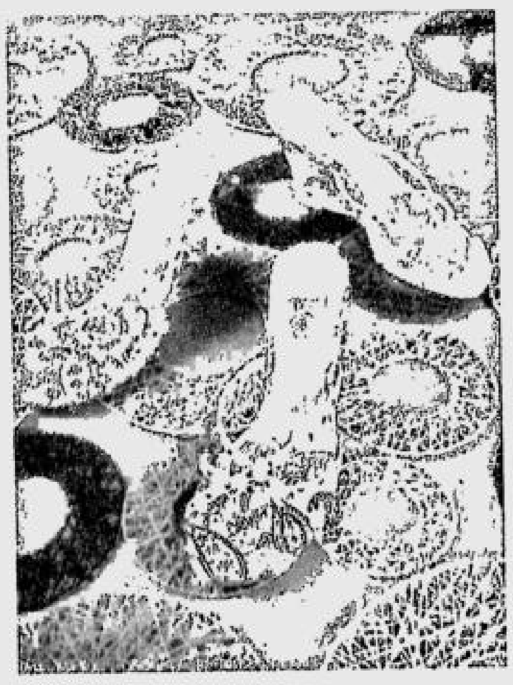
Many Shoe Box shoes are embellished with sequins, beads and ribbons. That means no plain-looking footwear here! The shoes come in a variety of fabrics and finishes, ranging from metallic to soft matte, leather to satin.

Check out Shoe Box at Cinderella outlets in SM Megamall, Glorietta and Alabang Town Center to get your fill of the yummiest shoes this side of the planet.

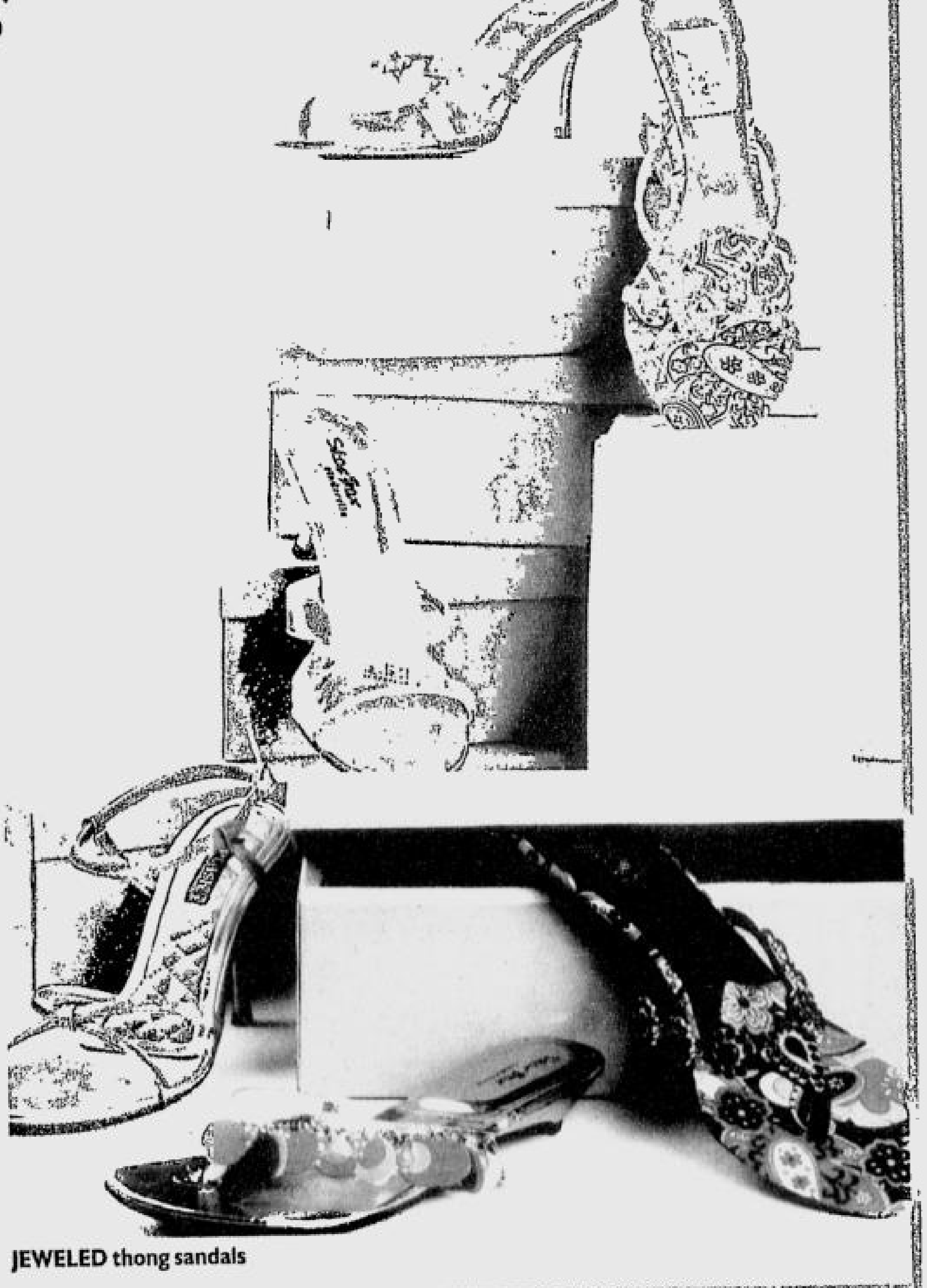


SLIP-ONS

POINTED pumps

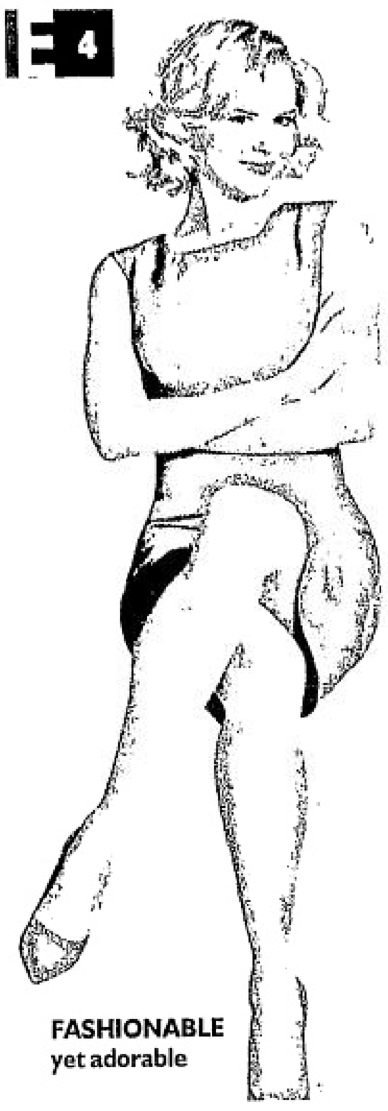


RAINBOW-COLORED mules



JEWELED thong sandals

Bewitching mix of old and new



FASHIONABLE yet adorable

From page E1

ish, unselfconscious, thrown-together quality to Isabel's wardrobe—a pair of Levi's jeans and a sweater from Express, a vintage-style cardigan and capri pants and sneakers. I was always happy when the girls in the office said that whatever Nicole was wearing that day was cute and asked where they could buy it, even if we'd made it ourselves."

Whenever Isabel was playing Samantha on the TV show, Zophres chose to coordinate her wardrobe. "Everything was a little bit more matched, more perfect. She wore proper shoes, not sneakers, or if she wore sneakers, they were Keds. Toward the end of the movie, as reality and fantasy start to blend, the two styles also merge."

"Bewitched" is Zophres' first collaboration with Nora Ephron, who became an immediate fan. "Mary is a costume designer who can really do an amazing range of projects," says Ephron. "Everyone remembers her clothes from 'Something About Mary' and if you saw 'Intolerable Cruelty,' you remember everything Catherine Zeta-Jones wore. Those are very contemporary costumes and in many ways they're harder to do than period clothes. The wardrobe at the end of 'The Ladykillers' is one of the great costume episodes I've ever seen, so real and so charming. She cannot only do contemporary and for a wide variety of characters, but she can also be very witty without being jokey."

Zophres received a British Academy Award nomination for Best Costume Design for "Catch Me If You Can." She has also designed costumes for six Coen Brothers films, including "Fargo," "The Big Lebowski," "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," "The Man Who Wasn't There," "Intolerable Cruelty" and, most recently, "The Ladykillers." In addition, she has worked with the Farrelly brothers, serving as costume designer on the comedy "There's Something About Mary." Her other film credits include "View from the Top" and "Any Given Sunday."

Opening in the Philippines on Aug. 10, "Bewitched" is distributed by Columbia Pictures, local office of Sony Pictures Releasing International.

KIDMAN and Will Ferrell

FOR THE movie, Kidman wears a lighter color palette—not just pastels, but softer hues.

Break the speed limit with SkyDSL Speed-on-Demand

All DSL service packages in the market offer specific broadband speeds measured in kilobytes per second or kbps which also determines the monthly charge that you need to pay.

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For more inquiries on the SkyDSL offers, interested customers may call 449-3118 or 449-3293 or they can visit www.skydsl.com.ph.

SkyDSL is available in selected areas in Quezon City, Manila, Malabon and Valenzuela.

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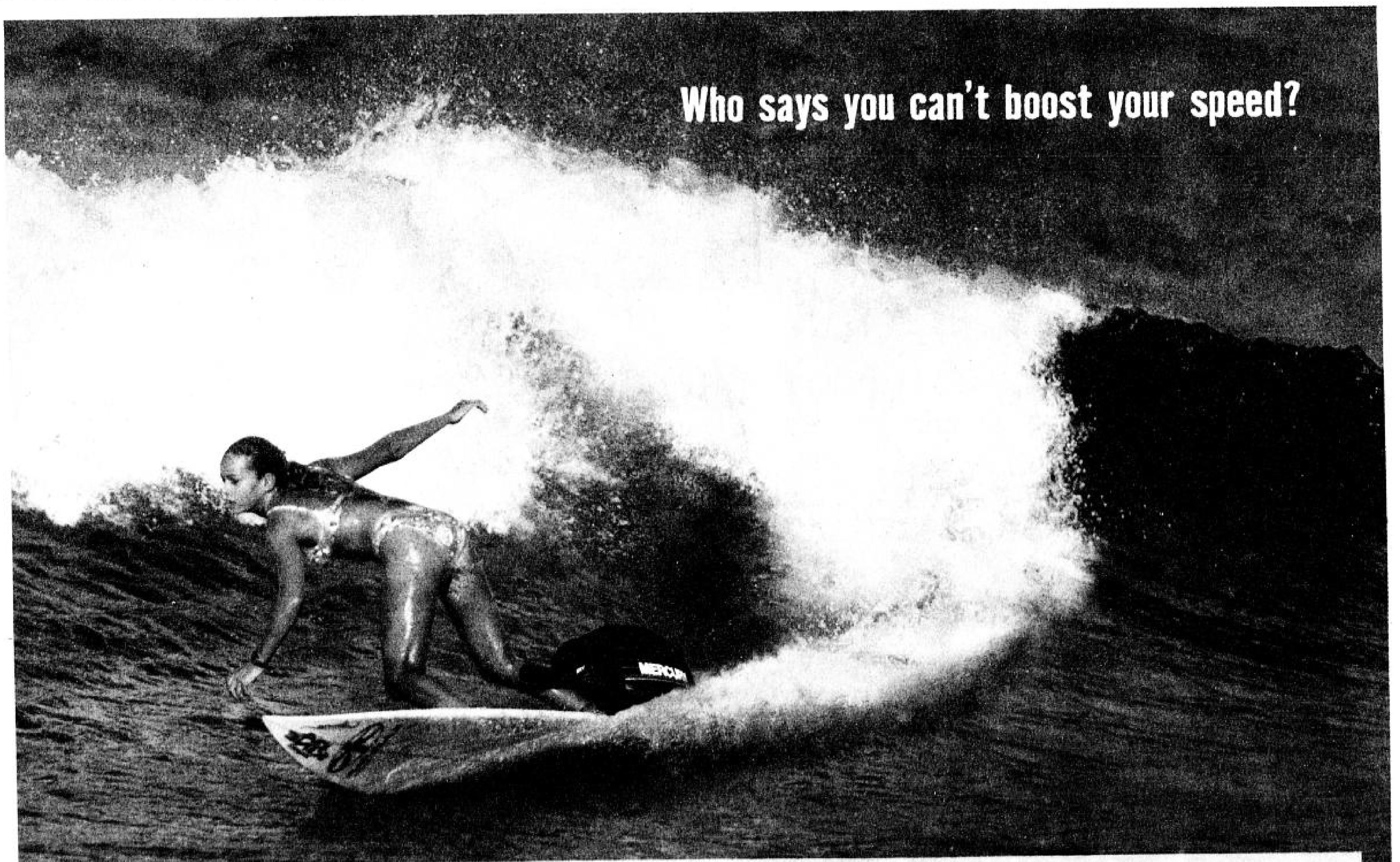

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Details	SkyDSL 192 kbps	SkyDSL 384 kbps	SkyDSL 896 kbps
Subscribed Speed	192 kbps	384 kbps	896 kbps
Monthly Fee (Standalone)	₱899	₱1,699	₱2,699
Speed due to SkyDSL "Speed-on-demand"	384 kbps	640 kbps	1.2 mbps
Promo on top of free "Speed-on-Demand"	Free one month subscription	With Existing BayanTel line: Free one month subscription Without BayanTel line: Waived installation fee	With Existing BayanTel line: Free one month subscription Without BayanTel line: Waived installation fee

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Call our sales hotlines: 449-3293, 449-3118, visit our website at www.skydsl.com.ph or see flyers for details.

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SKIRTS ahoy! /D4

Hair lessons from—of all places—Guangzhou

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

NO WOMAN (or even man) can live without hair color these days, which is why a haircolorist is a girl's most trusted friend (having dislodged a man in many cases, I notice).

Guangzhou, China, was the last place I expected to have my hair done, but it was there, two weekends ago, that I had my hair color touch-up, one of the best I've had, it would turn out.

Like many nice things, it was unplanned, yet this whim of the moment came with many valuable lessons about hair care/vanities you might care to know. On this personal trip, I tagged along with **Ricky Reyes** as he made the rounds of a huge two-story building filled with beauty/hair products and equipment for export. Even in fashion and beauty, China has become the manufacturing/trade hub—apparently across market segments, not only the mass market.

Ricky's friend who was showing us around, **Dennis Delgado**, isn't only into the manufacturing of hair products, he is also a leading hairdresser in Hong Kong who continues to tour the region giving lectures on hair treatment and color.

Dennis' showroom has hair color and treatment products which Dennis' firm manufactures using raw ingredients from France and Germany. Consumers must be aware that thanks to the undying obsession for hair rebond and hair highlight, the Philippine market has been flooded with cheap hair products from everywhere, especially China and Korea, some of which aren't safe.

That was why when Ricky picked up the scissors to say I'd have my hair color after he'd cut my hair, I jumped out of my chair. In the first place, I didn't expect a hair cut in this showroom which serves as a salon only when there was staff to train on hair color. (To me and many a girl, a hair cut is a major commitment, only slightly safer than a relationship.) In the second place I didn't want Chinese products touching my hair.

Celebrity

Ricky virtually had to chain me to the salon chair to keep me still as he proceeded to wield his scissors before an enthralled salon staff. Ricky apparently is a celebrity among Asian hairdressers who are just too eager to learn from him. Trimming/styling hair is reflex action to this multi-millionaire hairdresser whenever he eyes a pair of scissors.

So this time in an antiseptic showroom in Guangzhou, there wasn't much I could do to protect my long bob from him. A split-second negotiation (between "cutter" and "cuttee") yielded a short bob, but a bob nonetheless (I won!).

Dennis mixed my color using his products made from plant extracts and mineral oils. These raw ingredients are processed in huge extracting plants in France and Germany—for instance, 300 lbs of flower leaf yield 10 ml of extract. The extracts are then mixed and formulated in China. Dennis has quit hairstyling to focus on formulated hair products, which are relatively high-end.

As he touched up my color he assuaged my fears by answering many questions I had about hair color and treatment. Since women today have become dependent on hair highlights, a good colorist is a girl's best friend; she must trust him or her. My questions were more like fears—can't peroxide kill your hair, or even you? We've heard of a case or two of women who developed cancer presumably caused by hair dyes.

Some bits of information I got from Dennis:

1) Putting yet another color on a recent color is a no-no.

2) The type of conditioning agent used is important. A bad agent discolorizes hair. So make it your business to find out.

3) Bleaching the hair destroys its color.

4) On ammonia-peroxide—a mix I dread but which you can't help but use. Just keep the quantity very low. Ammonia lifts the hair color while peroxide puts the pigment into the hair. Too much peroxide dries up the hair.

5) Be wary of hair products that use metal or lead. Apparently there still such products. This is why it's important to go only to reputable salons that use established products. You never know what gets into the hair color mix, which is done in the salon backroom. Some cheap salons can use lead, not only because it's cheap but also because it sticks to the hair fast. It's when it comes in contact with your scalp that health risks set in. "If you see hair that looks unnatural in color, too bleached, you can be sure metal was used," said Dennis.

6) Henna isn't exactly that good for your hair. It's so thick and wraps around your hair, so that the strand can hardly breathe. It's similar to a sealant.

Trust

What all this tells me is that you must look very closely at what your salon is putting on your hair. Get a colorist you can trust—not only in how he produces the hue you desire, but also that he knows his percentage mix. I was surprised that Dennis knew the mix previously used on mine, the moment he touched a strand; his guess was right—I allowed it to be a lot more than 3 percent ammonia-peroxide.

Also, go for salons that use the products you're familiar with, no matter that they're relatively more expensive. This is one instance when cheap isn't good.

When Dennis was done I noticed that my color was multi-dimensional—a gradation of dark, medium and light, which is how hair naturally is. Nothing severe or too light or raw for me. Gradation—tell that to your colorist. Better still, it's been two weeks and there isn't a dry strand.

Such an accidental pleasure.

Still on vanities. After imperfect hair, the imperfect skin. I've found just the right foundation for my imperfect skin—MAC's Studio Fix on some days and on others, Shu Uemura's Velvet Foundation. Both are fine yet solid enough to cover my scars and pores.

Women who must use eyeliner—and you do these days—may try Guerlain liquid eyeliner. I used this until the Guerlain cosmetics was phased out. Now Guerlain cosmetics is back. I got my latest supply at Watson's in Hong Kong, but Watson's should also have it here. The line is ultra-fine, yet it stays. For me, it has the best tip-it lines easily.

Write feedback to thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com

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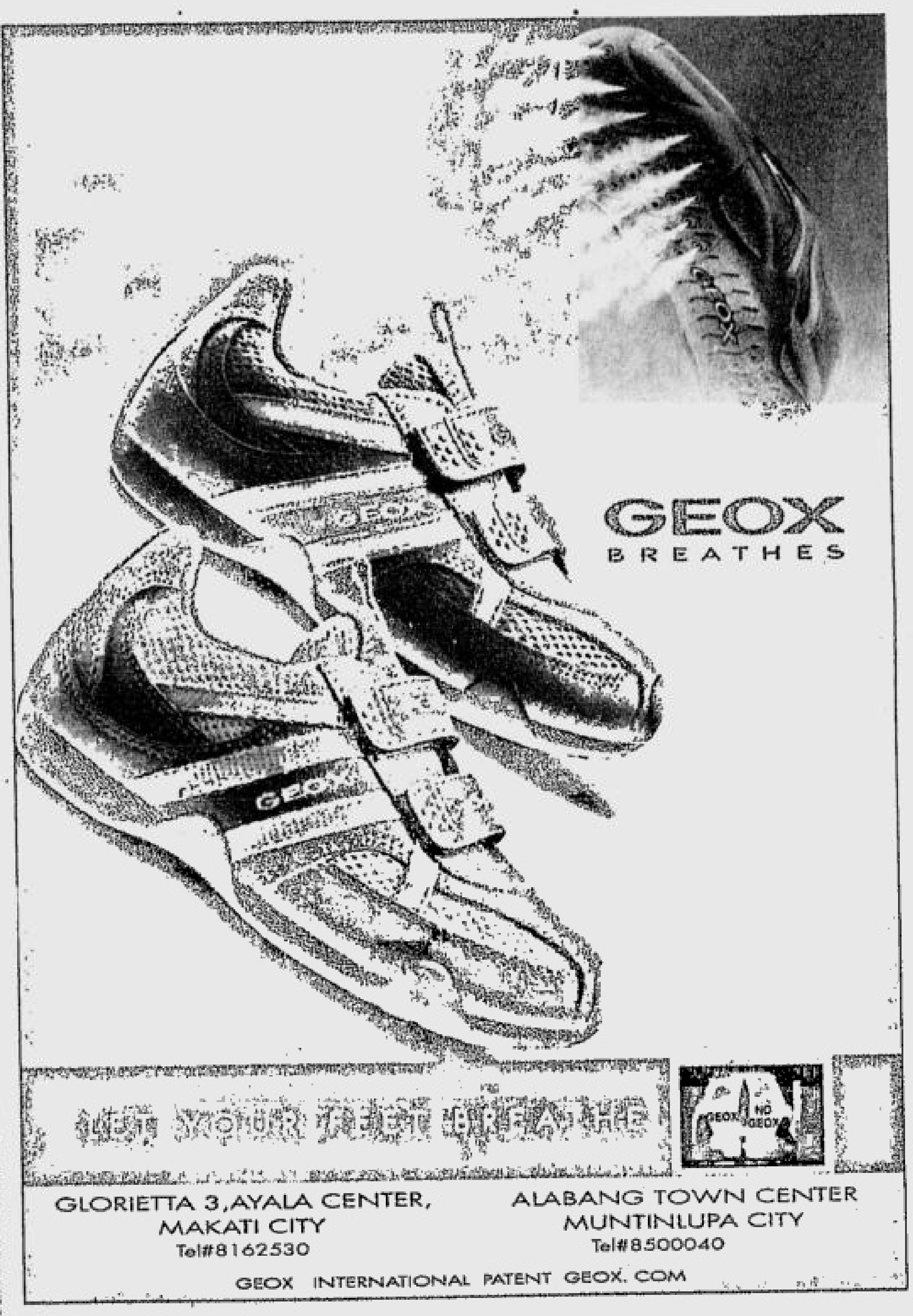
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All about beauty and wellness

GOINGS ON

SHANGRI-LA Plaza hosts a series of events on health, beauty and wellness. Fitness First will stage Les Mills Body Training Systems Mega Workout tomorrow, 2:30-5:30 p.m. Julie Borromeo will mount belly dancing, tap dance, flamenco and ballroom demo on Aug. 7, 3-4:30 p.m. while Effie Nañas Dancenter will present jazz, hip-hop and taekwondo demos, 5-6 p.m. Talks on how to stay healthy and beautiful will be held Aug. 7-28, 2-6 p.m., at 5/L, Shang's Wellness Zone. Call 6337851.

PERFORMANCE. Tenor Otoniel Gonzaga will have his last Manila performance tonight at 8 p.m., at Ayala Museum, Makati Ave. cor De la Rosa St., Makati City. With guests, pianist Mary Anne Espina, baritone Noel Azcona and soprano Joan Cano. Call 9017156 or 0910-8851136.

CONCERT. Concert at the Park presents Far Eastern University Pangkat Kawayan under the music direction of Victor Toledo on Aug. 7, 5 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

SEMINAR. The Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines will hold a seminar-workshop on "Cataloging and Indexing Made Easy Even for Non-Librarians," at Philippine Columbian Association, Paco, Manila, on Aug. 11-12.

CFS Continental Technology is offering the following seminars: "Conducting Successful Negotiation" (Aug. 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Customer Service That Works" (Aug. 19); and "Effective Supervisory Skills" (Aug. 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call 8697960, 8232358 or 8234825.

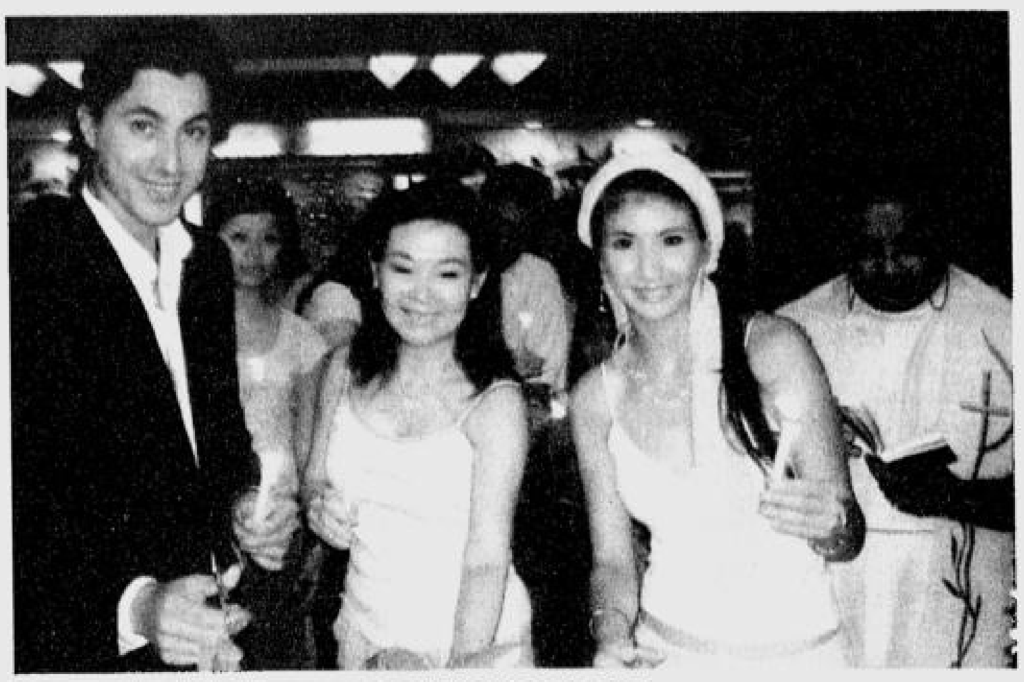
PROMO. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall holds its Shopping Surprises raffle promo until Dec. 14. Every P500 single purchase receipt from participating stores mall-wide and food outlets entities one to a raffle coupon. The first grand draw is on Dec. 16.

DANCE TILT. Kids aged 7-13 are invited to join the Chicken Dance Competition. Groups should be composed of five members and bring their original copy of the Chicken Dance album to qualify for the auditions tomorrow and on Aug. 7, 1-6 p.m., at Robinsons Malls. Call 6836137 or 6836100.

KIDDIE ACTIVITIES. Starland Theme Park features Starland Skywalker on Aug. 7, 3 p.m.; Craftsmania, Aug. 14; Rap competition, Aug. 21; and Solo Dance contest, Aug. 28. Call 8504283.

TEST. Exam fees for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test are to be paid upon submission of duly accomplished forms on Aug. 16-Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-12 nn/2-5 p.m., at Japan Foundation Manila, Makati; Philippine Nikkei-jin Kai School of Davao, Davao City; and Japanese Association Cebu, Inc., Mandaue City. The proficiency test will be held Dec. 4, 9 a.m., at De La Salle University, Manila; Philippine Nikkei-jin Kai School of Davao; and University of San Carlos, Cebu City. Call 8116155 to 58.

APPRECIATION NIGHTS. E. Excel Philippines, Inc. will hold a series of appreciation nights to honor its achievers. Circle of Achievers 2005: Recognition of Masters will be held on Aug. 27, 12 nn, in the grand ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati; and on Sept. 3, 3 p.m., Cinema 4, Lim Ket Kai Mall, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City. Call 8110837.



EUROPEAN BRAND OPENS THIRD RP STORE
Stars and other VIPs recently came in droves for the grand opening of international fashion specialist, Terra Nova, at 2/L, Bldg. B of SM Megamall. Rica Peralejo cut the ceremonial ribbon with Angelo Morano, chief representative of Teddy Spa Italy, and Msgr. Reyes, officiating priest. A fashion show unveiled the brand's latest collection of cool and casual wear. Terra Nova Philippines owner Evelyn Go and family, area manager for the Philippines Mino Raikov, and operations manager Cathy Castrillo were on hand for the event, as were guests California Clothing Inc. CEO and chair Victor Siasat, magazine editor Sari Yap, and others.

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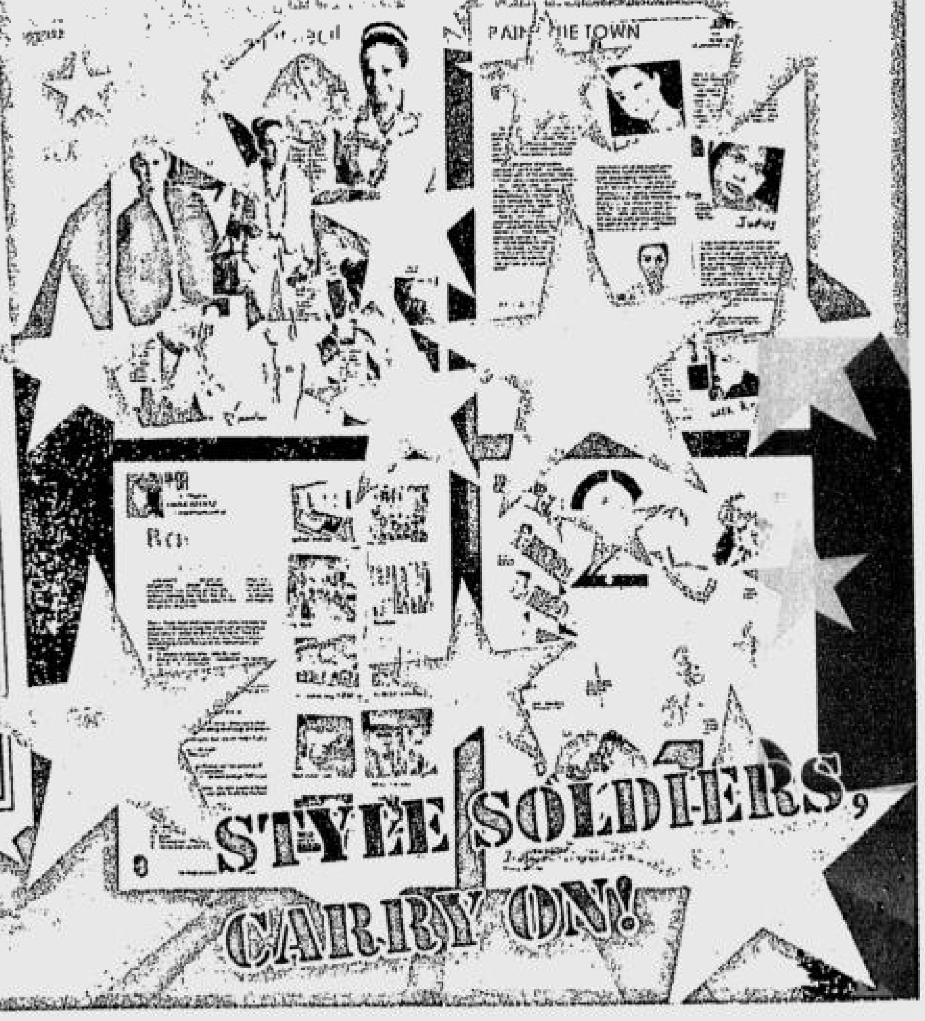

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For inquiries, pls. call Ms. Ching Dela Cruz at 897-8808 local 259.

Beauty brand releases men's line

AVON introduces Made for Men, the personal-care line for men that nurtures both face and body.

Mona Meer, brand manager for Made for Men, said the line has multi-tasking products such as deep-cleansing facial foam, blemish minimizing astringent, moisturizing aftershave as well as body wash, cologne and antiperspirant.

The model for the line is Dingdong Dantes. The handsome actor epitomizes what the line is all about, said Meer: "Dingdong is the natural choice to be the face of Made for Men, which targets multitasking men who take care of themselves but can't be bothered with too much primping."

Dantes said that Made for Men appeals to him because "it is simple to use but works well."

ACTOR Dingdong Dantes' nice-guy image makes him the perfect spokesmodel for Made for Men, Avon's personal-care line for men. Made for Men products include Deep-Cleansing Facial Foam, Blemish Minimizing Facial Astringent, Moisturizing Facial Lotion, Moisturizing Body Wash, Refreshing Splash Cologne and Modern Underarm Protection Roll-on Deodorant.

Paint your nails

IT USED to be that nail polish was strictly for women. But now men are starting to break the taboo, with a growing number of straight males putting lacquer on their nails.

The reason is simple: Nail polish adds new dimensions to the masculine look.

"Having nail polish doesn't mean you're effeminate," says Michelle Rivera, product manager, cosmetics division of Vibelle Manufacturing, Inc., the pioneering maker of top-selling local nail polish Caronia.

As with women, nail polish makes men look sexier and more sophisticated. In fact, a 2004 online survey conducted by the Internet's largest poll database, misterpoll.com, found that two of every three (65 percent) female respondents considered men with nail polish as sexy and nearly two in 10 respondents (18 percent) thought they looked cool.

Thanks to the impermanence of nail polish, guys can change nail colors as easily as they can change clothes. Paint your nails black, put on eyeliner and a leather jacket and you have an artsy Goth look. Put on a metallic matte and you come up with a glam rocker style. The personalities and styles a guy can choose from is only limited by his range of nail polish colors.

Caronia recently unveiled more than 100 hues of its original color lineup during a trade relaunch in Makati. The Caronia collection has a range of colors patronized by straight guys: Black Velvet, Silver Platinum, Silver Moon, Peace, Calm and Natural. Also available are nail care products for men such as the Caronia Cuticle Remover, Solvent, Nail Hardener and Kwik-dry.

EVEN male guests at Caronia Unleashed trY their hands on the new nail art craze, proving that manicure and nail arts are also for men.

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This competition is open to all high school students.

SHAKESPEARE SPEECH COMPETITION
Programme Mechanics
1 PARTICIPANTS
1.1 The competition is open to all public and private high schools. Schools may register online through www.britishcouncil.org/philippines or fill up application forms available in the British Council Office, 10/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City.
1.2 Each participating school must select only one (1) bonafide high school student representative to send for the competition.
2 COMPETITION GUIDELINES
2.1 Competitors may select an excerpt from any of Shakespeare's literary works (except sonnets). Works of Shakespeare are available online at http://shakespeare.about.com. The British Council Knowledge and Learning Centre also has a collection of Shakespeare's plays and select videos for in-house use.
2.2 Preliminary Screening: each Competitor should submit a voice recording (cassette tape/CD) of his/her [illegible] presentation (maximum). Deadline of submission of entries is on 19 August 2005.
2.3 Finals: Ten (10) finalists will be chosen to compete on the Finals night on September 16, 2005. During the finals, participants may opt to deliver an excerpt different from the audition piece. The maximum time limit for each presentation is [illegible] only including the time it takes for an introduction. If a competitor exceeds the time allotted, a signal will be given for him/her to stop the presentation. Company members of Scotland's Theatre Babel will lead the judging panel.
2.4 One prop may be used in the presentation and competitors may wear costumes but this will not have a direct bearing on the judges' decision on the presentation. A table and two chairs will also be provided for the competition onstage.
3 CRITERIA
3.1 Material Selection: The material should serve to [illegible] conclusion and contain elements that demonstrate the character's [illegible] of being; changes in objectives, actions and/or emotional conditions.
3.2 Voice and Diction: The competitor uses his/her voice clearly and articulately, with honesty, creativity and appropriate volume, according to the style and genre of the piece.
3.3 Nonverbal Expression: Expressions and intentions are communicated as if the audience were the listening character during the presentation.
4 PRIZES
4.1 Grand Prize: All expense paid trip to the United Kingdom to visit Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and PhP 20,000 pocket money. A complete set of Shakespeare's works will be awarded to the winner's school.
4.2 Runner-Up: Cash prize of PhP10,000 for the participant and a complete set of Shakespeare's works for the winner's school.
4.3 Prizes are non-transferable and may not be converted into cash.

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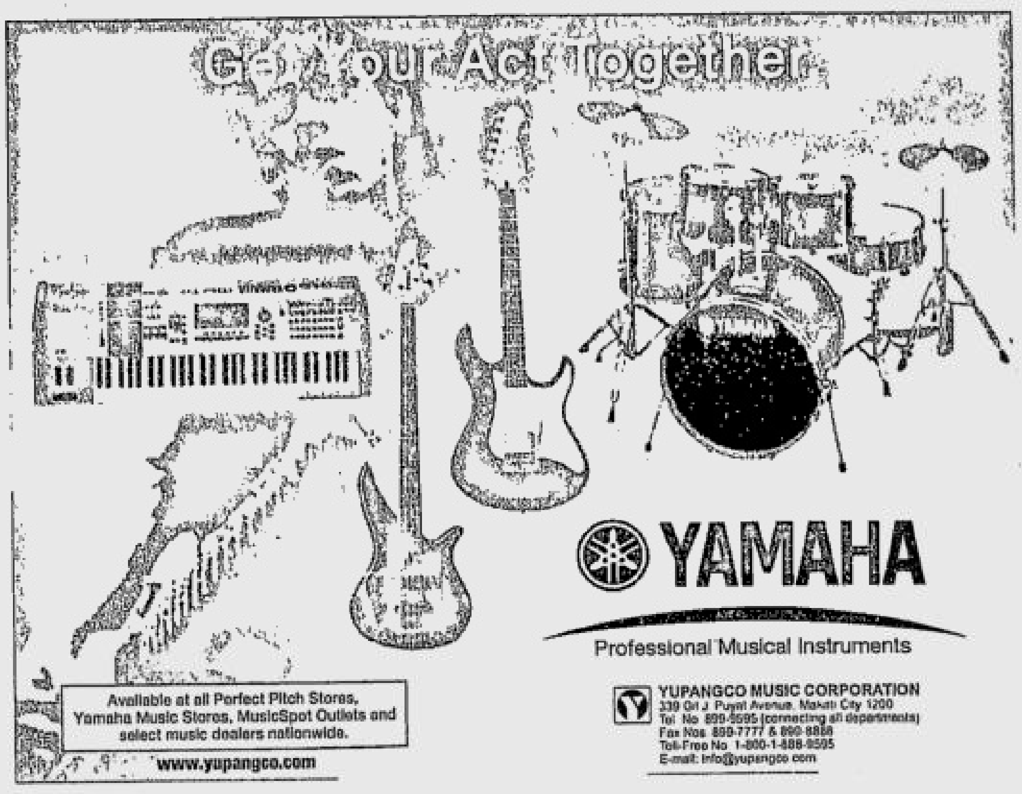

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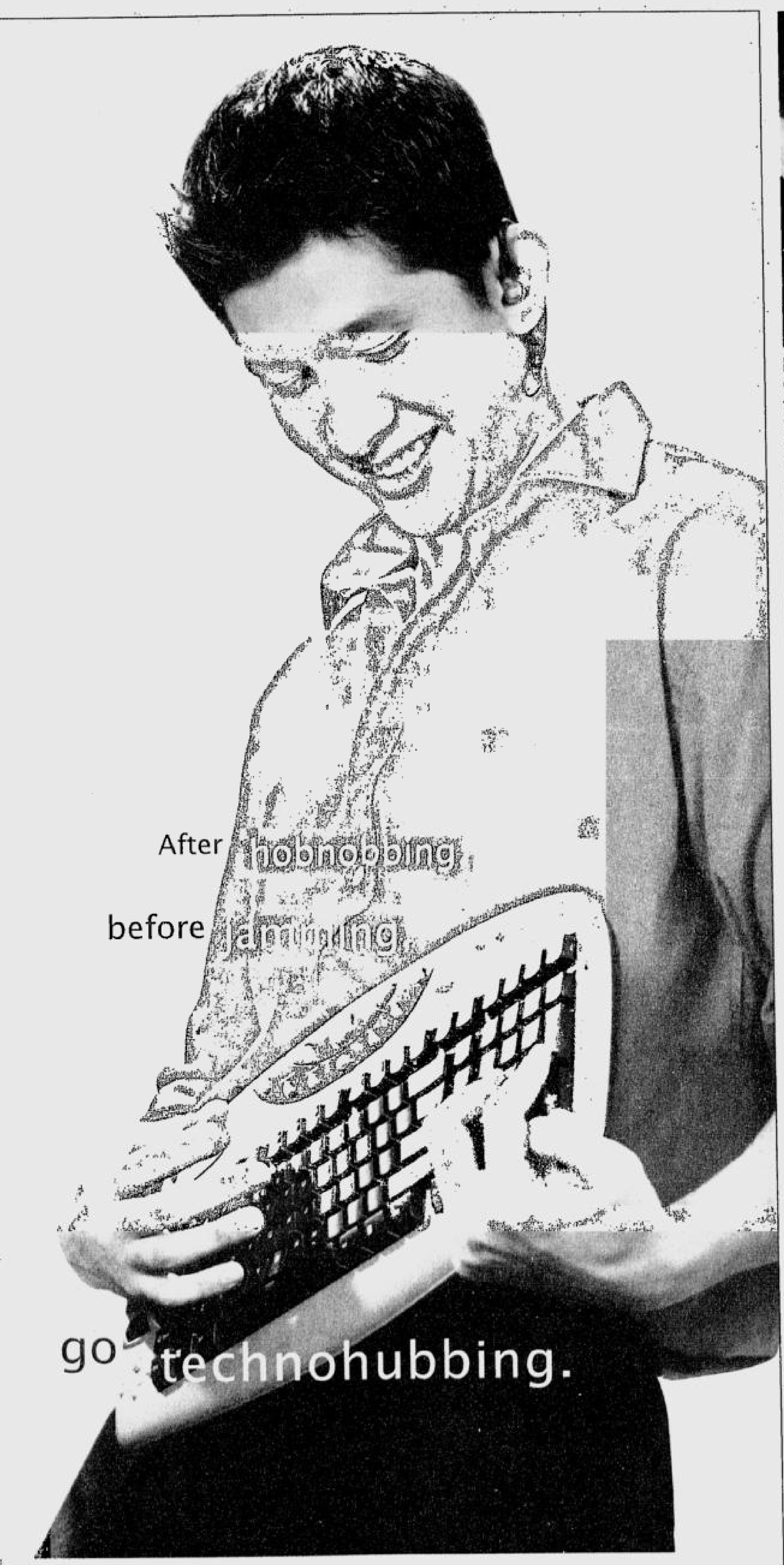
BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL
To celebrate the beauty of naturally black, shiny hair, Sunsilk held recently a Black Out party at Expo Exchange, Greenbelt 1, Makati. Six women who embody Sunsilk's ideal of fresh, natural and flawless Filipina beauty were presented—Isabel Oli, Julianne Lee, Yasmien Kurdi, Melissa Ricks, Paw Diaz and Alessandra de Rossi.



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MUTYA NG SOUTH COTABATO
One of the highlights of this year's 6th T'nalak Festival in Koronadal City, South Cotabato, was the Search for Mutya ng Cotabato. The winners were Geraldine Barrientos who was named Mutya ng South Cotabato; Marvy Tirado, first runner-up; Karen Cordero, second runner-up; Windylou Olano, Mutya ng Tourism; Meriel Arado, Miss Culture and Arts; and Goree Angeli Serisola, who won the Best Designer Gown Award.

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